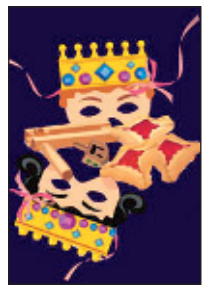
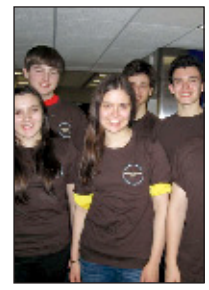
In this issue…

JFS to Honor Carol Amster Page 6



Thoughts on Purim Page 11



Ann Arbor Teens in Nahalal Page 23

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WASHTENAW

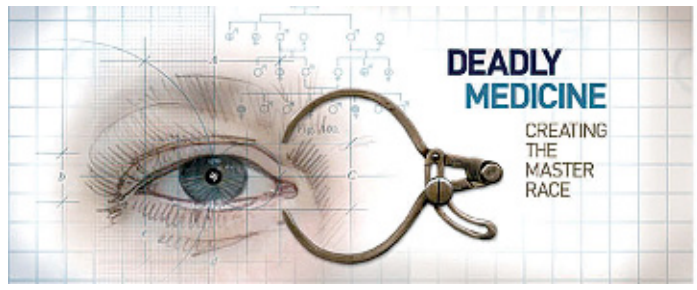
JEWISH NEWS

March 2012 AdarI/Nissan 5771 Volume XXXVI: Number 6 FREE

US Holocaust Museum historian to speak at AADL

Tim Grimes, special to the WJN

On Friday evening, March 9, the Ann Arbor District Library will host a presentation by The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, in conjunction with their traveling exhibition, Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race (now on display at the University of Michigan Taubman Health Sciences Library through April 13). The program will take place 7–8:30 p.m. at the Downtown Library.



Dr. Dieter Kuntz, historian at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, in Washington, DC, will discuss the theme of the exhibit, which illustrates how Nazi leadership enlisted people in professions traditionally charged with healing and the public good to legitimize persecution, murder, and ultimately genocide. This event is co-sponsored by The Taubman Health Sciences Library and the UM Center for the History of Medicine.

From 1933 to 1945, Nazi Germany carried out a campaign to "cleanse" German society of individuals viewed as biological threats to the nation's "health." Enlisting the help of physicians and medically trained geneticists, psychiatrists, and anthropologists, the Nazis developed racial health policies that began with the mass sterilization of "genetically diseased" persons and ended with the near annihilation of European Jewry.

To relate this history, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum assembled objects, photographs, documents, and historic film footage from European and American collections and presents them in settings evoking medical and scientific environments. Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race inspires reflection on the continuing attraction of biological utopias that promote the possibility of human perfection. From the early twentieth-century international eugenics movements to present-day dreams of eliminating inherited disabilities through genetic manipulation, the issues remain timely.

Dr. Dieter Kuntz, the speaker for this evening's event, received a Ph.D. in Modern European History from the University of Kansas, and has taught courses in European history and on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust at both the University of Kansas and the University of Iowa. His publications include a classroom teaching volume titled *Inside Hitler's Germany: A Documentary History of Life in the Third Reich* (1992), used at colleges and universities throughout the United States. He has contributed chapters to anthologies such as *The Holocaust Chronicle* (2000), *The Routledge History of the Holocaust* (2011), and the forthcoming *Jewish Resistance to the*

continued on page 2

Federation hosts symposium on medical malpractice

Avram Kluger, special to the WJN

On March 18 the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Maimonides Society, in association with the Washtenaw County Bar Association, will present a symposium entitled "New Frontiers in Medical Malpractice." The event will be held at the Kellogg Eye Center, 1000 Wall Street. Doors open at 9 a.m. for networking and breakfast. The formal program will begin at 10:15 a.m.

As everyone knows, the current way of handling medical malpractice by launching lawsuits is hardly ideal. It leads to an adversarial climate and to defensive medical practices. Doctors do not disclose errors. They avoid high-risk patients and order unnecessary tests and procedures.

How should the system be reformed? Discussions often begin with a focus on limiting the size of liability payments. But that approach denies injured patients their rights and probably does not lead to improved patient care. More recently, the focus has moved away from this "deny-and-defend" approach to a "disclose-and-offer" approach, in which health providers own up to their errors and compensate injured patients for the harm. Medical mistakes are shared with patients and their families. Full explanations, apologies, and compensation offers are provided. Clinical processes are examined and modified to prevent recurrence. Evolving since its inception in 2002, the disclosure-and-offer approach has gained national exposure through *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *National Public Radio*, *The New York Times*, network television and the Obama White House as an innovative method to controlling costs and leading to better and safer medical care. Demonstration projects using and evaluating these processes are being enacted in several other medical systems nationwide.

One of the two speakers at the upcoming Maimonides event is Richard C. Boothman, an attorney and Chief Risk Officer at the University of Michigan Health System, modified the U-M claims program and spearheaded the disclose-and-offer approach. He commented that "it is time our medical community stopped regarding itself as a victim of a broken legal system—a 40-year preoccupation which has not fixed the medical malpractice problem—and focused instead on rendering higher quality and safer clinical care. If we did nothing more than address the problems we already know about, medical malpractice would become background noise."

Richard C. Boothman

continued on page 2

Beth Israel Congregation welcomes Henry Rosenblum as Scholar-in-Residence

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Beth Israel Congregation will host Hazzan (Cantor) Henry Rosenblum on March 23 and 24 as the Scholar-in-Residence for the biennial Alfred and Alice Rosenberg Adult Education Weekend. Hazzan Rosenblum, former dean of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School and College of Jewish Music at the Jewish Theological Seminary, is an engaging and entertaining speaker with consummate musicianship and magnetic performance skills. Hazzan Rosenblum will present three lectures over the two days, as well as lead the Friday evening service on March 23.

Henry Rosenblum

With the exception of the Shabbat dinner for which there is a charge, all events during the weekend are free and all are open to the public.

On Friday, March 23, Hazzan Rosenblum will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6 p.m. which is followed by a Friday Night Dinner at 7 p.m. At 8:15 p.m. on that same night Hazzan Rosenblum will present "Synagogue Music as we Know It: How it all Begin." He will review the legacy of Salomon Sulzer, Louis Lewandowski, and Israel Goldfarb, the three giants of synagogue song and how their own particular vision has shaped the music that became the basis of prayer services for the past 150 years. The presentation will be followed by a dessert reception.

On Saturday March 24, the Shabbat morning service will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will be followed by a kiddush lunch. After kiddush, at 12:45 p.m. Hazzan Rosenblum will discuss "Masoretic Midrash: Were They Trying to Tell Us Something Hidden in the Text?" He will explore selected biblical portions through an examination of the cantillation marks, also called tropes. He will demonstrate how the trope marks, in addition to serving as punctuation and grammatical marks, also give one an additional layer of understanding and insight

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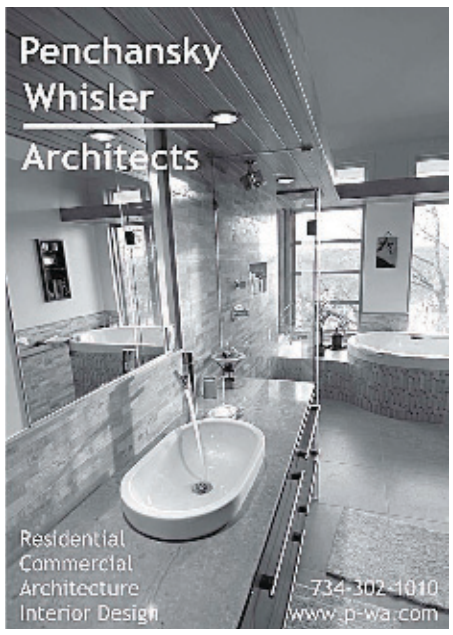

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Community

Holocaust, continued from page 1

Nazis. At the Holocaust Museum since 1999, he has worked on a number of museum exhibits, and was instrumental in the development of the exhibit Deadly Medicine, and is editor of the resulting publication *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race* (2004). He is currently in charge of the museum's seminars for university faculty on Teaching about the Holocaust, and also directs the Campus Outreach Lecture Program.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's educational initiative on Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race has been underwritten in part by The David Berg Foundation; the Dorot Foundation; The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation; The Lerner Foundation The Rosenbluth Family–Al, Sylvia, Bill, and Jerry; Eric F. and Lore Ross; The Samberg Family Foundation; and the Viterbi Family Foundation of the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibitions program is supported in part by the Lester Robbins and Sheila Johnson Robbins Traveling and Temporary Exhibitions Fund, established in 1990.

For more information on this event, call the Ann Arbor District Library at 327-4555 or visit the website at aadl.org. ■

Malpractice symposium, continued from page 1

The other speaker is Norman D. Tucker, a well-known and highly respected local attorney with a specialty in medical malpractice. Having represented injured patients for the past 37 years he remarked "We have tried tort legal tort reform for 40 years, and nothing has changed. Telling the patient the truth, compensating them if negligently injured, and making sure the same mistake doesn't happen again sounds like a novel concept, but it might just be the best tort reform in decades." He will present the plaintiff's side of the story.

Norman D. Tucker

Jonathan Trobe, who co-chairs the Greater Ann Arbor Maimonides Society with Barry Nemon, explained that "we chose this topic because it ignites doctors and lawyers. The present system of handling malpractice disputes frightens doctors and probably does not make them better practitioners. Patients injured by bad medical practices are hardly ever helped. Our speakers are experts. Norm Tucker is one of the most respected plaintiff attorneys in this area and Rick Boothman, who heads up the University of Michigan's Risk Management division, is a nationwide celebrity for championing disclose-and-offer. Some people doubt this new approach will work. Come and decide for yourself. Expect fireworks."

Admission to this event is free and advanced registration is requested by March 12. RSVP online at www.jewishannarbor.org or contact Cindy Adams at 677-0100. Maimonides Society events are generously supported by a grant from Fifth Third Bank. ■

Rosenblum lecture, continued from page 1

that greatly illuminates the meaning of the text.

That evening at 7:45 p.m., after a reception with refreshments beginning at 7:15 p.m., Hazzan Rosenblum will discuss "Shlomo Carlebach: The Man and His Music." He will reflect on the life and work of Carlebach whom Rosenblum had the opportunity to meet on many different occasions, and whose creativity continues to influence so much of synagogue music today. Hazzan Rosenblum will share stories about this unique individual and teach some of his melodies.

This series is underwritten by the Alfred and Alice Rosenberg Lecture Fund, established by Vic and Val Rosenberg. Alfred Rosenberg himself was trained as a cantor, and it is very fitting for this fund to underwrite this topic.

Hazzan Henry Rosenblum, a graduate of Brooklyn College with a BA in philosophy, completed his cantorial studies at the Cantorial Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1972 where he received the Diploma of Hazzan and a Bachelor of Sacred Music Degree. After his investiture, he assumed the position of cantor at White Meadow Temple in Rockaway, New Jersey, until 1978 when he was installed as the cantor of Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange, New Jersey.

From 1987–1998 Hazzan Rosenblum was the cantor of North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, Illinois, and from 1997 to 1999 he served as the president of the Cantorial Assembly, the international umbrella organization for cantors in the Conservative Movement. He was appointed dean of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School and College of Jewish Music at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1998, becoming the first cantor to hold that position. He was awarded a Doctor of Music, Honoris Causa, by JTS in 2002. He concluded his 12 years as dean on June 30, 2010 and is now the cantor of the Forest Hills Jewish Center.

Call the Beth Israel office at 665-9897 for further information or to make arrangements to attend the Friday night dinner. ■

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

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The deadline for the April 2012 issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Wednesday, March 7.
Publication date: Wednesday, March 28.
Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

In this issue…

Advertisers 35
Books 28
Calendar 30
Campus 7
Congregations 12
Israel 22
Kosher Cuisine 29
On Another Note 27
Seniors/Women 5
Teens/Youth 16
Vitals 35
World Jewry 25

Conversation on "Jewish Detroit"

Karla Goldman, special to the WJN

What was Jewish Detroit? Who is Jewish Detroit? Where is Jewish Detroit? What is Jewish Detroit?

These are among the many questions that will be open to examination, consideration, and dialogue at a forum held at the University of Michigan School of Social Work on Sunday, April 1, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

"What is Jewish Detroit" will be the fourth in an annual series of Communal Conversations presented by the Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP), all offered with the goal of extending the conversations that engage JCLP students to the broader community.

For two years now, JCLP students have taken up the legacy of the School of Social Work's Project STaR and Drachler Program, immersing themselves in studies geared toward future work as professionals in the Jewish community.

JCLP students have joined in the national Jewish conversation via attendance at national conferences and meetings with major national figures who have attended their seminars in Ann Arbor. One of the most important aspects of the program, however, has been the students' immersion via field placements, formal seminars, public programs, volunteer work, and home hospitality in the local Jewish communities of Ann Arbor and Metro Detroit.

The chance to become part of the vibrant communal engagement that is currently animating the reinvestment of Jewish energy and life in the city of Detroit is one of the exciting possibilities open to JCLP students who have come to Ann Arbor from across Michigan and across the country. JCLP students have had the opportunity to tour former Jewish neighborhoods and synagogues with the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. They've engaged in conversation with youthful members of the Downtown Synagogue who are creating homes and investing sweat equity in the city. They've joined in forums and discussion sponsored by the Metro Detroit Jewish Federation and various start-up efforts invested in retaining young Jewish professionals in the metro region.

They've watched the general American Jewish communal quandary over urban issues play out at a local level and observed the growing attention from national Jewish organizations focused on Detroit.

Increasingly familiar with the diverse issues related to Jewish communal impact and involvement in the city, they've noted the variety of approaches and perspectives informing the many Jewish initiatives afoot in the city. Hoping for a forum where these different perspectives could be brought into conversation with each other, they determined to create one for themselves.

The April 1 "What is Jewish Detroit?" communal conversation at the School of Social Work will offer an interactive setting for learning and dialogue about the past, present, and future relationship of Jews to the city of Detroit. It will feature urban historians, Beryl Satter and Lila Corwin Berman; reflections from community members of different generations on their own personal experience in and relationship to the city; a series of focused plenary and table dialogues framing critical questions related to the community's current relationship to the city; and an invitation to frame continuing conversations on these issues.

This is an opportunity for the Jewish community of Ann Arbor to join with their counterparts from metro and downtown Detroit in imagining the future of Jewish possibility in this region and to assess the significance of the city to the Jewish community of Southeast Michigan.

"What is Jewish Detroit," will take place at the School of Social Work Building, 1080 S. University Avenue. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is limited. The first 30 registrants will receive free "What is Jewish Detroit" t-shirts on the day of the event. Register for "What is Jewish Detroit" at http://bit.ly/what-is-jewish-detroit. For further information, email: jclp.umssw@gmail.com. ■

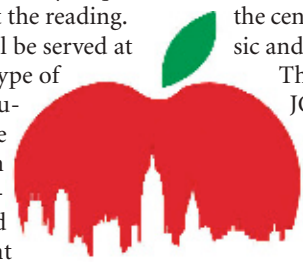
Chabad to host NYC-themed Purim celebration at JCC

David Alpert, special to the WJN

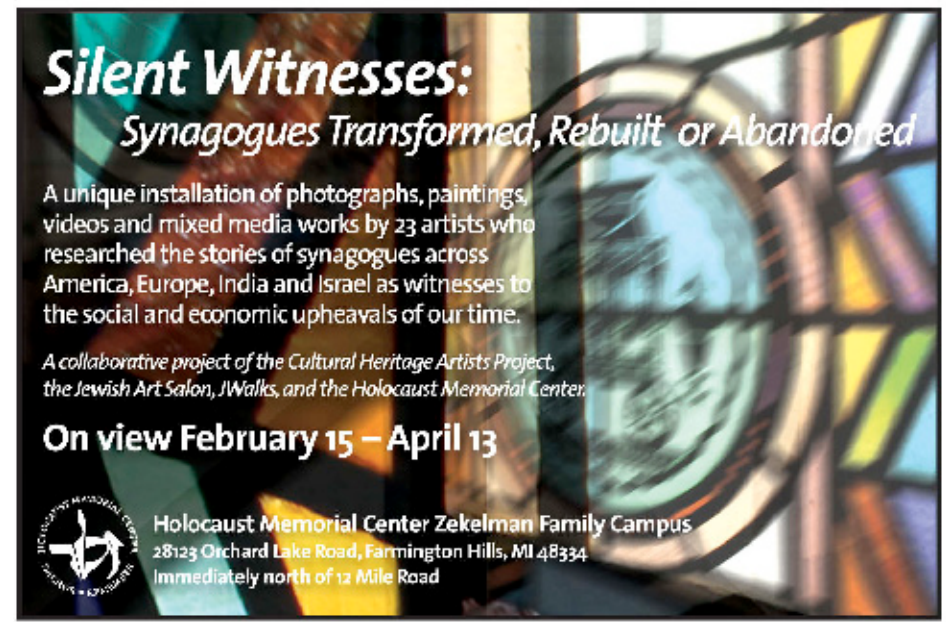
Ann Arbor is ground zero for rich, diverse cultures with its trendy, historical town center and annual cultural attractions, so a Purim in NYC party on March 8 will be a perfect fit.

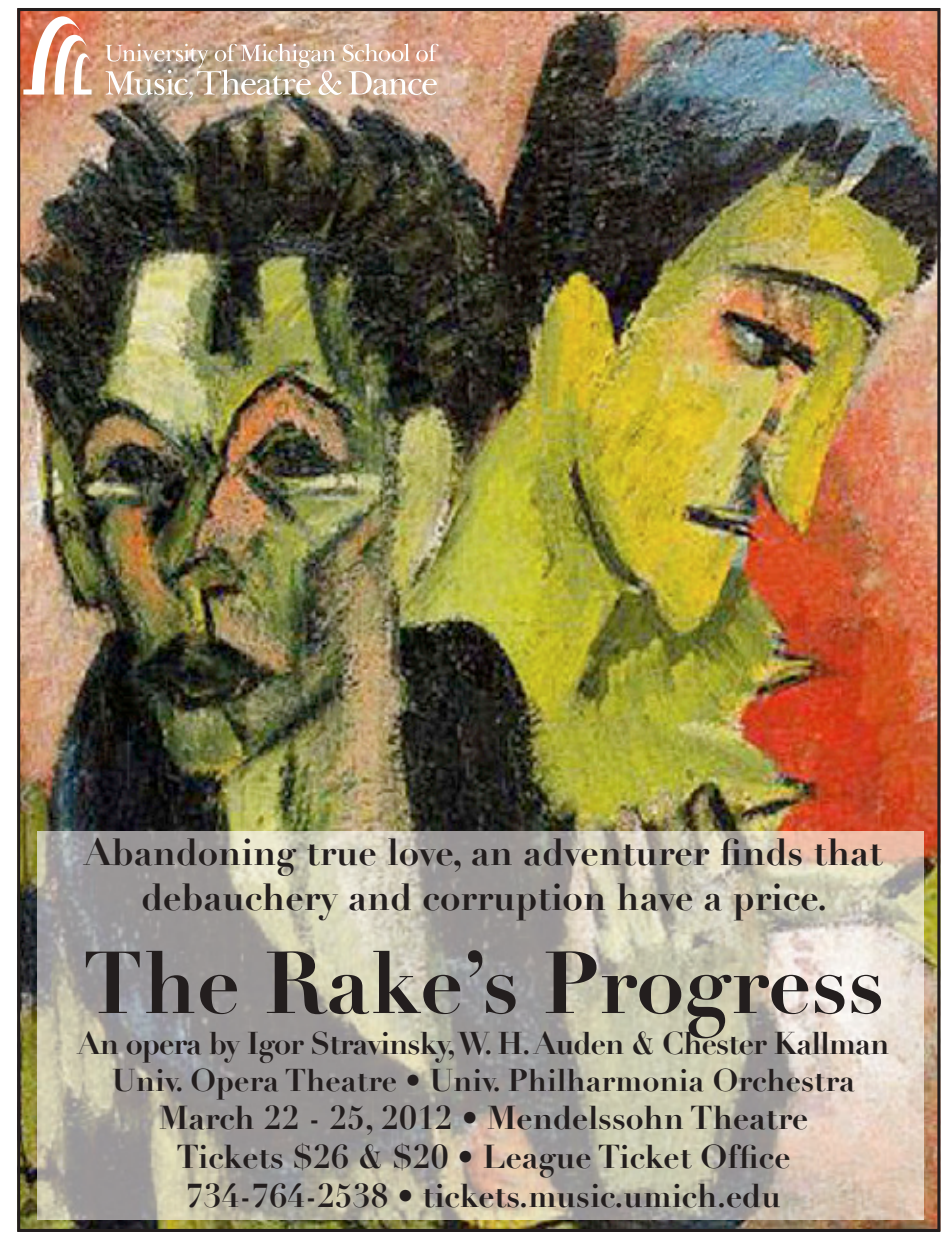
At the NYC-themed Purim bash, hosted by Chabad of Ann Arbor, the megilah reading will take a twist with a Broadway-esque slide show running throughout the reading.

Traditional Purim foods will be served at a New York style deli, and the type of entertainment you would usually find at Times Square will be everywhere at this party, from face painting to balloon twisting. Children can try their hand at Chinese crafts, reminiscent of Chinatown in NYC with its distinct culture and busy tourist attractions. In another corner, a caricaturist will feature against a backdrop of Grand Central Station, and a deli dinner straight out the Lower East Side promises to provide tangible tastes of the Big Apple. Radio City Music Hall will bring its famous show stopping experiences smack in the center of the party with lively music and festive Purim dancing.



The event will take place at the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor, from 5:15–7 p.m. The charge is $30/family; $12/adult. For more information or to RSVP go to www.jewmich.com or call 995-3276 #5. ■





Happening at the Jewish Community Center

Karen Freedland and Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

Used book and media collection day

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will participate in the Bookstock Used Book and Media Sale. Monies raised fund various literacy projects throughout the Metro Detroit area. Stop by the JCC on Sunday, March 18 from 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. with used books, books on tap, records, videos, CDs and DVDs. Donors can drive through and drop them off at the curb. All items will be donated to the Bookstock sale, which will take place April 22–29 at Laurel Park Place Mall in Livonia, at Six Mile and Newburgh Roads.

Many volunteers are needed to help make this a success. The JCC will receive a share of the book sale profits for helping with this project. To schedule a pick-up of large donations or to volunteer, contact Rebekah Gamble at rebekahgamble@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

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JCC's Amster Gallery Features Raya Brown

The JCC will present Color, Form and Texture, the work of Raya Brown. Brown works in acrylics mixed many times with gel to create dimensional texture. In her paintings she shifts between the play of geometrical shapes and colors, realistic and abstract paintings, and collage. Her work evokes different moods and offers the eye much delight. The opening reception will take place, Sunday, March 18, from 4–6 p.m.

The exhibit runs from March 13 through April 30. Paintings can be purchased by cash or check.

Ladies of the Book Club

The JCC sponsors a book club for women ages 20–39. This club will meet the second Monday of the month at 8 p.m. at the JCC. The chosen read for March 12 is *With Friends Like These* by Sally Koslow.

The book asks the question, 'Have you ever been a less than perfect friend? To whom does your first loyalty belong—your best friend or your husband?' With her trademark wit and empathy, Sally Koslow explores the entangled lives of women in this candid, fast-paced novel. Quincy, Talia, Chloe, and Jules met in the early 1990s after answering a roommate ad for a Manhattan apartment. Despite having little in common, the women became fast friends. A decade later, their lives have diverged, though their ties remain strong.

April 9 will feature *Big Girl Small* by Rachel Dewoskin and May 14 will feature *Following Polly* by Karen Bergreen.

For more information or to register for this free program, contact Rebekah Gamble at rebekahgamble@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Celebrity Cooking Class features Dena Jaffee

The JCC will feature a Celebrity Cooking class, featuring Chef Dena Jaffee, on Sunday, March 25 from 4-6 p.m. at the JCC.

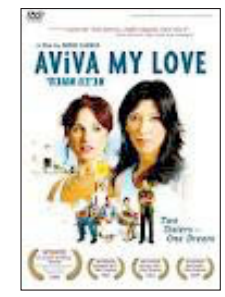
Jaffee returns to her home state of Michigan after working closely with Dr. Andrew Weil, renowned author and host of PBS series, *Body & Health*. Jaffee was Dr. Weil's personal chef for 10 year and culinary consultant to his Center of Integrative Medicine. Her passion is mission driven. She strives to show that healthy food can be delicious and at the same time support and encourages local food economies. She is now culinary consultant to the Whole Heart Group, which manufactures healthy snacks based in Michigan.

The menu for the class includes a Tuscan kale salad, a new twist on tofu stir-fry and blueberry peach crumble. The cost is $25. Registration is required as space is limited.

Falafel and a Movie set for March 24

The JCC will host Falafel and a Movie on Saturday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. Join this monthly event where the JCC will screen an Israeli film and serve a meal of falafel and Israeli salads catered by Haifa Falafel. The March selection is the award winning film, *Aviva Ahuvati* (*Aviva My Love*.)

Aviva, a hard-working hotel cook in the small northern Israeli town of Tiberius, is on the brink of finally fulfilling her lifelong dream. For years she kept her remarkable writing abilities under wraps, until her sister, Anita, introduces her to Oded, an accomplished novelist. Immediately recognizing Aviva's talent, Oded takes her under his wing, promising to help her achieve greatness. But the journey to greatness affects her life and the lives of her family—her unemployed husband, her troubled children, her unstable mother, and primarily her sister, a funny and sensitive woman who has her own dreams. When Aviva discovered that Oded has other plans for her work, her world collapses.



Tickets are $10 for JCC members and $12 for non -members. Reservations are required.

Gardening Club begins this month

Spring is just around the corner and so is the JCC's informative gardening series. Share gardening tips, ask questions of a master gardener and learn composting techniques. The club will visit gardens and community farms to learn techniques from local talent. The next meeting will take place Monday, March 27 at 7 p.m. at the JCC. Annual dues for JCC members is $20, non-member is $30.

Play Reading Workshop led by Kate Mendeloff

Those who missed the first two sessions of the JCC's Jewish Play Reading Workshop are welcome to join Kate Mendeloff, University of Michigan Residential College Drama professor, and explore works by Daniel Margulies, Neil Simon and Arthur Miller. Students will be working with plays by Jewish authors with Jewish content. Here is a chance to act and learn with a local professional in a supportive environment. The workshop is a prelude to forming a JCC Jewish theatre performance group. The cost for the remaining two classes is $35 for JCC members and $45 for non-members. Registration is required as space is limited.

Bicycle enthusiasts wanted

The JCC is starting a bicycle club that will meet once a month for a 20 to 30 mile bike ride. Riders will traverse the ins and outs of Ann Arbor with other riders. The first informal ride is scheduled for Sunday, April 1 at 9:45 a.m. Those interested in participating should meet at the JCC ready to ride. All levels of riding skill are encouraged to join, as there will be adjustments for beginning and more advanced riders. ■

For more information and to register for classes at the JCC, contact Karen Freedland at 971-0990 or karenfreedland@jccfed.org.

Afternoon Delights Concert, March 28

Merrill Poliner, MSW, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will present an Afternoon Delights concert on Wednesday, March 28. The hour-long concert will begin at 1:30 p.m. with refreshments served beginning at 1 p.m.

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra principal hornist Andrew Pelletier will be featured at this concert. On the brass faculty of Bowling Green State University since 2004, the Grammy Award-winning soloist and chamber musician regularly performs across the United States. Dr. Pelletier holds a bachelors degree from the University of Southern Maine and a masters and doctorate from the University of Southern California.

Tickets ($8) are available at the door and through the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra at 994-4801.

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March SPICE* of Life

***Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational Programs for Adults** Karen Merrill Poliner, special to the* WJN

Tuesdays

10 a.m.: Washtenaw Community College Bible Literature & History Class taught by Dr. Liz Fried. This semester 's class, beginning on February 7, will cover "Ezra in History and Tradition: Inquiry into God's Justice. Call 971-0990 to register.

11 a.m.: Energy Exercise© with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10

Noon: Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person

1 p.m.: Games and Activities. Join in for a variety of games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects, and other card games.

1 p.m.: Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No sports or computer experience necessary.

1 p.m.: Open Computer time – tutor available. Call for reservations and more information.

Thursdays

10 a.m.: Energy Exercise© with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10

11 a.m.: Current Events with Heather Dombey. A discussion of this week's news. Bring items of interest for group discussion.

Noon: Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person

1 p.m.: Thursday Special Events and Presentations (see below for details)

2:15 p.m.: Sidney Warschausky Literary Group facilitated by group members. Call Merrill Poliner, 971-0990, for more information and the title of the current book.

Fridays

1:30 p.m.: Yiddish Reading Group at the JCC. Call Ray Juni for additional information at 761-2765

Thursday special events

March 1

12:30 p.m.: Birthday celebration for all with March birthdays. Family and friends are invited for lunch and birthday cake.

1 p.m.: As we age, many live with chronic pain. A group of University of Michigan nursing students will discuss living with and treatments for chronic pain.

March 8

12:30 p.m.: A registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address any questions

1 p.m.: Today is **International Women's Day,** a day when women are honored, a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women, past, present and future. Rabbi Kim Blumenthal of Beth Israel Congregation comes to the JCC Older Adults program to discuss Jewish women of significance.

March 15

1 p.m.: Join us as we create art for a cause. The group will be creating and decorating Jewish ceremonial objects such as Kiddush cups, seder plates and matzoh and challah covers for use in the JCC's Early Childhood Center classrooms. No artistic skills are necessary. Bring a sense of humor and creativity, all materials are supplied.

Thursday, March 22

1 p.m: Joyce Kessler, Injury Prevention Coordinator at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital will conduct the third of a series of four Senior Lifestyle and Injury Prevention sessions. This month's session, which will concentrate on Driving Safety, is of importance to all older adults who want some suggestions about how to continue to drive safely.

Thursday, March 29

1 p.m: A local musician will perform.

Passover desserts is topic for March Jewish Women's Circle

Mae E. Sander, special to the WJN

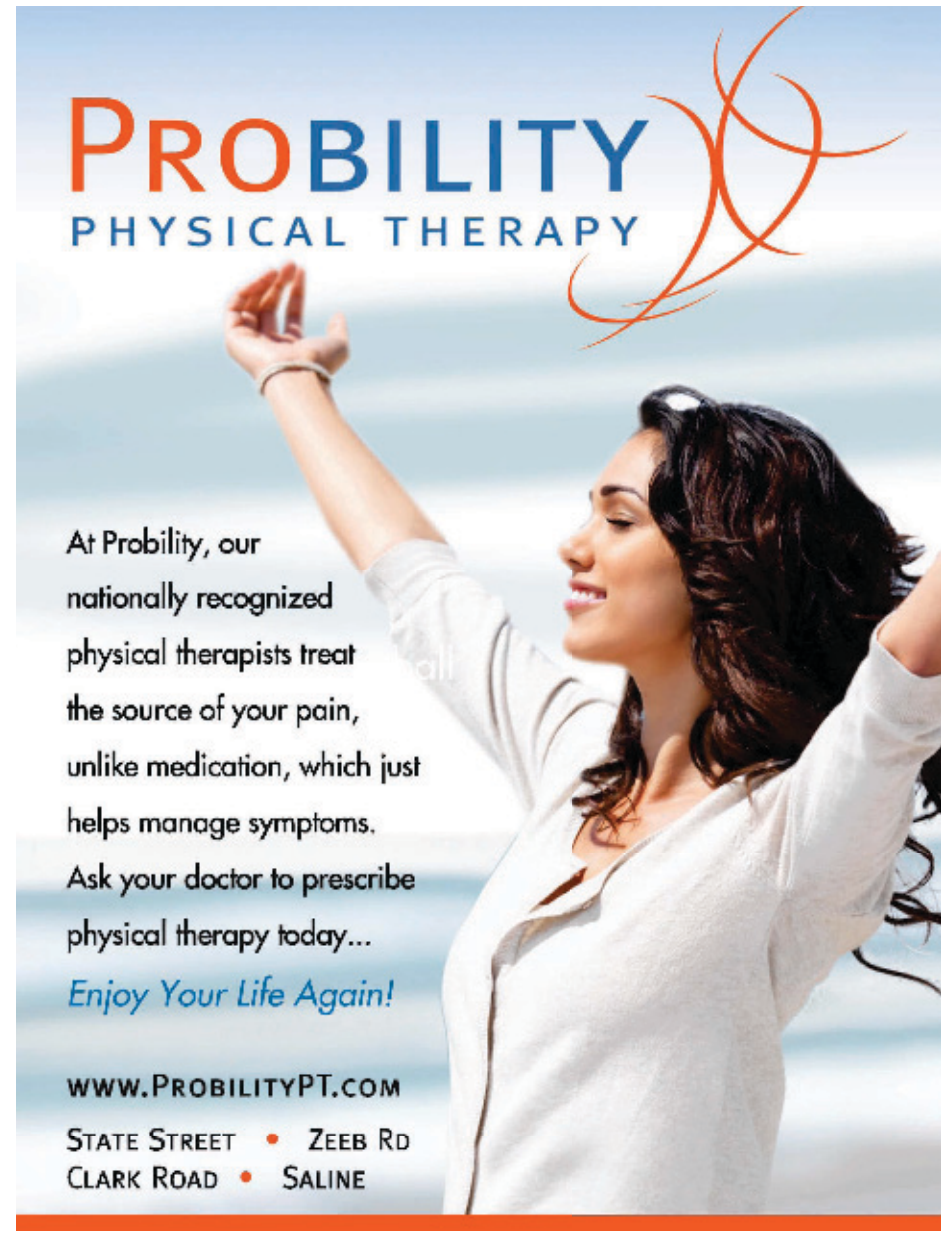
If you have been to the Jewish Book Fair, to the Film Festival, to Celebrate Israel, to Federation's Main Event, or to many other community and private events in the Ann Arbor area, you have had the opportunity to taste the delicious offerings of Executive Chef Lori Shepard of Simply Scrumptious Catering. On Monday, March 26 at 7 p.m., Shepard will be the featured speaker/demonstator at the Jewish Women's Circle meeting.

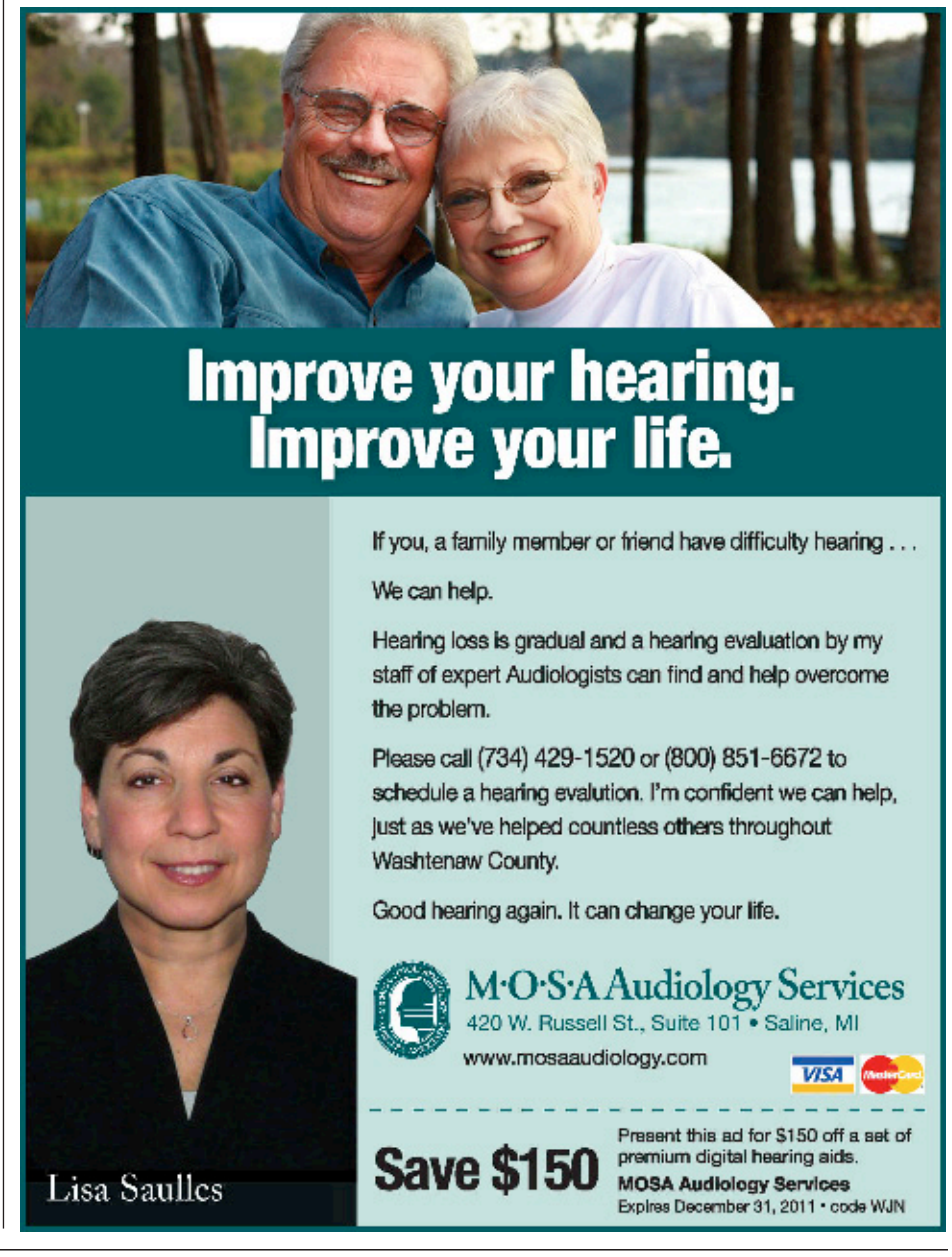
Lori Shepard and Esther Goldstein

The topic of the meeting is Desserts for Passover. Shepard will show participants how to make several of her creations, including her pecan-caramel tart. She will answer questions about techniques and ingredients for making Passover sweets. Also at the meeting, organizer Esther Goldstein and other members of the Jewish Women's Circle will present ideas for food and celebration of the holiday.

Simply Scrumptious Catering, which Shepard founded in 2003, provides full-service catering and also party trays for many types of events. Her custom-built commercial kitchen specializes in-house-made pastries and desserts, appetizers, and full meals for weddings, family reunions, business meetings, holiday parties, bar and bat mitzvahs, and many other celebrations. Menu choices include a variety of ethnic and American dishes, with an option for preparation with kosher certification. Shepard has made many in-kind donations to Jewish community events. For example, at the Book Fair reception and several lunches last fall, all the food was a donation from Simply Scrumptious Catering.

The Jewish Women's Circle provides an opportunity for Jewish women to meet new friends, socialize, and learn about a variety of issues. It is open to all, no affiliation is necessary. A donation of $10 is requested. Spaces are limited. For the location of the meeting, to sign up, and to receive future invitations from the Jewish Women's Circle, send email to esther@jewmich.com. ■





JCLP's expanding communal conversation

By Ilana Schuman-Stoler

Jewish Communal Social Work

The Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) at the University of Michigan provides an opportunity for students to explore their involvement in Jewish community and to apply their communal interests within the fields of nonprofit management and community organizing. One of the best aspects of being a student in the program has been engagement with the broader Jewish community—whether in Ann Arbor, the Detroit Metropolitan area, or the areas'; in between. The Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro Jewish communities have welcomed us, invited us into their homes, and taught us about their experiences building and growing both as individuals and a collectively.

Over the past year and a half, we, JCLP students, have challenged ourselves to face difficult communal topics like the daily and political goings on in Israel, and within our local American Jewish community. We have met with local and national leaders and have attended national Jewish conference and regional events where communal issues have come into question. A large part of our learning has been contemplating what role we can play in building community.

The great city of Detroit

In our experiences over the course of the program, we have spoken with various communal stakeholders and attended events related to the Jewish community's impact and involvement in the rebuilding of Detroit. With growing national attention, efforts to build programs in the city and to recruit fresh, young talent have gained momentum. In the last year, many national organizations within the Jewish communal realm such as Repair the World, Moishe House, and Jewish Funds for Social Justice/Progressive Jewish Alliance, have brought people and money to Detroit to fund projects and participate in community building efforts. Additionally, organizations like the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue and CommunityNEXT have revved up their own efforts to build a constituency in the region to support this revitalization. Though all these organizations exist under the "Jewish umbrella," they often work independently from one another and are often in tension with each other in their respective approaches to building community in the city.

JCLP provides an opportunity for students to explore their involvement in Jewish community and to apply their communal interests within the fields of nonprofit management and community organizing.

Our opportunities to meet with the leaders of these programs and organizations have deepened our interest in the intentions and hopes informing the Jewish community's engagement with the City of Detroit. As an academic program at the University of Michigan, we believe we can offer an appropriately objective space to bring individuals with various perspectives and organizational affiliations together to discuss issues surrounding the Jewish community's role in Detroit and in the region today and in the future.

What is Jewish Detroit?

On Sunday, April 1, we will bring together a diverse group of Jewish community leaders and activists and historians, at the School of Social Work, to discuss the relationship between the Jewish community and the City of Detroit. Our purpose in hosting this event is to act as rising leaders in the Jewish community to bring a variety of stakeholders together to discuss issues related to the relationship between the Jewish community and the City of Detroit. We intend to structure this program as a communal conversation built upon a consideration of the impact of Jewish presence and absence in Detroit throughout the city's history. (See related article on page 3.)

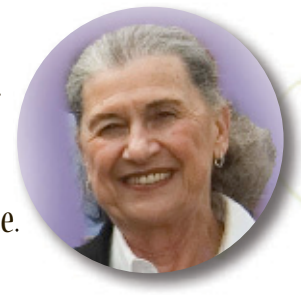
Reinforcing our mission

When our advisor and mentor Dr. Karla Goldman was installed in 2009 as Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work and the Director of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program, she shared her vision of JCLP students engaged in addressing the challenges of 21st-century Jewish community. As she stated, "It is my hope, in the work that we will do here at the University of Michigan, that we will be able to bring the responsibilities inherent in our ancient and more recent past together with the opportunities of this moment to imagine and create a Jewish community that believes in itself and [to] understand its role in the many different worlds of which it is part." Throughout our time in the program, we have grappled with this challenge. We are excited that, through our "What is Detroit?" symposium on April 1, we will be inviting the communities that have supported us to join in exploring and addressing the Jewish community's relationship and responsibility to the City of Detroit today. ■

Please Join Us For This *Important* Spring Event.

Honor Carol Amster

the 2012 recipient of the Claire and Isadore Bernstein Leadership Award.
The Award is presented to members of the Ann Arbor community
who have made significant contributions to development and growth of
Jewish Family Services and demonstrated outstanding community service.



JFS @ UMS

March 25, 2012
Rackham Assembly Hall, 4th floor, Ann Arbor
Reception: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
San Francisco Symphony Mavericks Chamber Concert: 4 p.m.

Remembering Herb Amster

Announcing the launch of a special campaign to fund The Herb Amster Center,
a new division of JFS, which will create revenue-producing services
to help fund Jewish Family Services' client care.

Honor · Celebrate · Grow

To give, go to jfsannarbor.org

JFS Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County
2245 S. State Street • Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.jfsannarbor.org • 734-769-0209

The Herb Amster Center
A Division of Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

Tickets for pre-concert reception are $50.
To purchase or for more information, please go to
www.jfsannarbor.org or contact Alice Miller at 734- 769-0209
or alice@jfsannarbor.org

ums

Concert tickets are sold through **UMS**
(734) 764-2538 • For a **25%** discount, use this
code at checkout: **JFS@UMS**
Must be purchased in advance; not valid on previously purchased tickets.

Scan with your smartphone for information about the concert series

JFS to present the 2012 Bernstein Leadership Award to Carol Amster

Roz Keith, special to the WJN

On March 25, Jewish Family Services will honor Carol Amster with the Claire and Isadore Bernstein Leadership Award. The award is presented to members of the Ann Arbor area who have demonstrated outstanding service to JFS and the community. The JFS program will take place from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Rackham Assembly Hall, followed by a 4 p.m. University Musical Society concert featuring musicians with the San Francisco Symphony.

Over the years, a rich tapestry of experiences shaped Carol's intense desire to not only give, but to create a legacy that ensured a future for the Jewish people. From early eye-opening trips to the Soviet Union and Israel to active participation in the Beth Israel Congregation Women's League and United Jewish Appeal. Carol authentically lives the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

Herb and Carol Amster

Carol Amster and her late husband, Herb, devoted nearly four decades to supporting the Ann Arbor community, including the establishment of the Herbert and Carol Amster Lupus Research Fund at the University of Michigan. Additionally, Carol served on numerous boards, including the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, University Musical Society, the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, and NEW Center. She was also active on the Ann Arbor Holocaust Memorial committee and devoted ten years as director of UJA Washtenaw County. Carol received the Celebration of Women volunteer award and together, she and Herb were recipients of the Federation Humanitarian Award.

More than anything, Carol hopes that future generations in her family will continue the tradition of giving "To see the smiles on their faces when you give...to see how happy people are… that's the legacy," she says. ■

Individual program tickets are $50; the concert tickets may be ordered separately. For more information or to order program tickets, contact Alice Miller at 769-0226 or amiller@jfsannarbor.org. Tickets can also be purchased through www.jfsannarbor.org.

Concert tickets are sold through UMS 764-2538. For a 25% discount, use the code: JFS@UMS. Tickets must be purchased in advance; the discount is not valid on previously purchased tickets. This discount is available by phone or in person only.

The Herb Amster Center kicks off fundraising campaign

Anya Abramzon, executive director of JFS, and Herb Amster were on the same page when it came to the "importance of securing the necessary funding and the enormous impact it would have on JFS," said Abrazon. "Herb was JFS' greatest cheerleader," she added. "He was instrumental in helping JFS find their strengths, and as an entrepreneur, he helped us increase our capacity to improve in those areas to better strengthen the agency and the community as a whole."

A member of the "cool new things committee" an early group later turned into the agency's business development committee, Herb promoted growing the agency's areas of expertise in order to increase financial stability, even before the economic climate required nonprofits to consider such factors.

In 2009, JFS received 3-year accreditation status from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), a feat rare for an agency of this size. This accreditation was inspired by Herb's business philosophy; the agency is now able to bill third-party companies for reimbursement of services resulting in increased capacity. Growing the number of quality services JFS provides means that the agency can move away from its grant dependency to a more reliable revenue stream.

The Herb Amster Center, the new division of JFS, kicks-off its foundation campaign this month, adding social enterprise and entrepreneurship to the agency's list of services, all in line with the memory and work of Herb Amster.

Herb devoted his life to helping others. As a board member, mentor, and community philanthropist, Herb believed in collaboration, innovation and excellence in both nonprofit and for-profit organizations. His dedication to entrepreneurship and mentorship embodied his optimism for the future. This philosophy, said Phyllis Herzig, JFS board president, is "just what our agency needs to be sustainable long into the future." For more than ten years, Herb worked with JFS, including serving on its board from 2004–2010. After his death in 2010, the Amster family chose JFS as the sole agency to carry on Herb's name. "Herb and I never gave anonymously. We believed it was critical to teach by example."

"JFS feels honored to have this opportunity to take all of the ideas and dedication Herb showered the agency with, and continue on in his honor," Abramzon said. "Herb always encouraged us to remember our bottom line so we could continue providing more of the good services our clients rely on."

With the launch of The Herb Amster Center, JFS will be able to focus on empowering individuals and families through entrepreneurial efforts for self-sufficiency. The center will create revenue-producing businesses to help fund Jewish Family Services' client care. These businesses will use JFS' nationally recognized expertise to meet community needs. With Herb Amster's legacy of entrepreneurship as inspiration, the center will take an innovative approach to funding for Jewish Family Services.

The Herb Amster Center will bolster the economic well-being of the entire community. Abramzon agrees that this is the "most fitting and meaningful way to honor a man who cared so deeply about his community and those around him. From donor to board member to legacy builder, Herb Amster carefully planted the seeds necessary for a bright future. It is now our job to nurture and grow his legacy."

Ann Arbor students meet Iraqi refugees in unique JFS program

Liz Kohn and Youth Service Learning Corps students, special to the WJN

Last October, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County launched the inaugural Youth Service Learning Corps program to teach middle school students about local refugee and immigrants' experiences. In the January session, the four participants listened to two JFS resettlement clients, Sura and Samar, share their stories of coming to America. The Youth Corps students practiced their interviewing, writing, and storytelling skills as they learned about experiences very different from their own. Below the students' share their impressions of this session:

"You may have found moving from one state to another is hard, right?" asked middle school student Dalit Kluger. "Or even from house to house?" she added. Try moving from one country to another. Sura did when she, her husband and three children moved from Iraq to Ann Arbor in September of 2007. "The hardest part was the long journey," Sura told the Youth Corps group. They left because of the brutal Iraq War and to feel safer. It was a very big and challenging move, but despite the tough first year, she says life here is better for her and her now elementary, middle, and college-age children. Sura feels free and not bothered, although improving her English and getting into college was no walk in the park. She was very pleased at the school's effectiveness and teaching methodologies and is now content knowing her children are getting a good education.

Language was not the only challenge, noted Dalit's peer, Jane Mintz; transportation was difficult as well. Sometimes Sura and her children had to walk for 30 minutes just to get to the bus stop. In this weather, she noted, walking isn't the most pleasant thing to do, and the cold was a huge change. Getting around in the U.S., or even just Ann Arbor, is hard because it is a huge place compared to Baghdad, which she likened to the size of Chicago.

Sura enjoys the many lights in Ann Arbor during the holidays, something she had never seen in Iraq. Not only seeing the lights but hearing "Happy Holidays!" was a new experience too. Although Samar, a fellow Iraq refugee, arrived a few years after Sura, Samar's challenges and triumphs were similar.

Students Tema Cohen and Ellie Simon retold Samar's story—Samar is a college student from Iraq, they noted, who moved here in May 2011. She was supposed to come with her family, but there was a problem with their visa cards and they couldn't come with her. She was lonely at first, struggling to learn American English after learning British English in Iraq.

Coming to America was very different from what Samar thought it would be. In Iraq, she had watched American TV shows with Arabic subtitles and was able to learn English that way. She thought America would be like the TV shows, where life was very relaxed. When Samar came here she found life busier than the entertainment industry portrayed.

Similar to Sura, one problem she faced in Ann Arbor was transportation. Samar didn't have a car so she had to take the bus, and it took a long time to get anywhere she wanted to go. When she finally got a car, Samar had more freedom and needed less travel time, but the grocery store remained a mystery at times. She struggled to recognize some new foods, like broccoli. She mainly shopped at an Iraqi market to find familiar foods like rice, which she says she uses in almost everything. "I moved here to be safer, and I am," Samar said in closing. There are many new things to experience, and she learns something new every day.

Through this Sunday afternoon interview at JFS, the students and facilitators were reminded that being in America is truly a gift. The gratitude Sura and Samar expressed for the opportunity to be here was a great chance for students to learn from the experiences of others and reflect back in their writing and personal expressions. JFS will continue the Youth Corps sessions through April. ■

For more information about the Youth Service Learning Corps program, contact Liz Kohn at liz_Kohn@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209.

Tu B'shevat at EMU

Miriam Borenstein, special to the WJN

One of the most universally enjoyable and relevant holidays of the Jewish year, Tu B'shevat, did not go unnoticed this year at Eastern Michigan University. Hillel at EMU hosted an informative event in the Eastern Eateries food court on campus, educating and treating students from all backgrounds. Offering a sampling of traditional and healthy Tu B'shevat treats, Hillel met swarms of students curious about this delicious and unknown celebration of trees. Free snacks were not the only prizes to be found in stopping by the Tu B'shevat tasting, as Hillel promoted conservation and environmentalism, offering materials on greening campus life, trees in Israel, and information about the Jewish calendar.

Miriam Borenstein and Greg Stein sharing Tu B'shevat with EMU! ◀

Student Lauren Cohn at Hillel at EMU's Tu B'shevat Tasting ▼

Most of the students who stopped by were unfamiliar with Tu B'shevat, and some had never before sampled dried fruits. One excited student, having just tried her first figs and dates declared, "These grow in Israel? That's it; I'm on the next plane!"

To ensure that students really learned something about the holiday, they were asked to answer trivia questions to be eligible for a raffle drawing to win a number of prizes. After an impressive effort on the part of dozens of students, four went home on Tu B'shevat with hearty, house-appropriate trees of their own.

Students who stopped by the event were also encouraged to plant their own parsley, all materials supplied, to take home with them. As a result of this planting session, at least 20 EMU dorm rooms are now home to Tu B'shevat seedling parsley plants, the result of a day well spent in the Eateries. ■

Conference brings together the "Zionist leaders of tomorrow"

More than 150 Jewish college students and 30 on-campus professionals—representing Zionist groups from across the political and religious spectrum—convene at World Zionist Organization-sponsored gathering in Miami.

By Jacob Kamaras/JointMedia News Service

For Rebecca Schwab, senior advisor to the Midwest board of Young Judea, the lack of Israel engagement on college campuses is one of the primary challenges facing Zionist youth movements in America.

"A lot of campuses talk about anti-Semitism and how to overcome it in a politically correct way," Schwab said. "But really the problem is under-engagement, because you'll have a lot of dreamers who really want to put on these Israel advocacy events, [including] training seminars and bringing in speakers, but the [student] population doesn't show up."

That was just one of the contemporary issues on the table for more than 150 Jewish college students and 30 on-campus professionals discussed last month in Miami at the 2012 Young Zionist Leadership Conference (YZL), a three-day leadership training and professional development gathering sponsored by the World Zionist Organization (WZO). According to Samantha Vinokor, WZO's communications director, Zionist groups from across the spectrum of political and religious affiliation were able to find out "'Where are you coming from, where am I coming from?' and happily meet in the middle under this cause." Groups such as the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), Stand With Us, The David Project, J Street, and others were "brought together for one of the first times ever that we're aware of," Vinokor said.

"We literally sat in that room, and the discussion was, 'We are the Zionist leaders of tomorrow,'" said Schwab, who is from the University of Wisconsin. "And someone said, 'Oh wow, it's so cool, I already know you guys, so when you're huge in the Jewish community, I'll already know who you are."

The conference's keynote speaker was Israel Maimon, who served as cabinet secretary under former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Sharona Whisler, who represented the Southeastern Region of ZOA at the conference, said she asked Maimon if Sharon, at the time, believed the 2005 disengagement from the Gaza would bring about Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Maimon, according to Whisler, said there were reports indicating that peace would not be attained after the disengagement, but that Sharon thought disengagement was the right thing to do and "still thinks it was the right thing to do." Whisler also asked Maimon what went wrong with the planned compensation for Jews who had to leave their Gaza homes and lost their jobs—many of them in agriculture. Maimon responded that Israel "definitely learned some lessons" from the Gaza pullout, but added that Jewish refugees did receive compensation.

"To me, and to ZOA, it's still unacceptable just to give the compensation [to Jewish Gaza refugees] because you can't just start a farm anywhere, and they really needed more help than that, especially since it was the ministry of agriculture that sent them to live there in the first place," Whisler said.

Attending the conference on behalf of J Street was Ira Stup, East Coast Organizer for J Street U. Whisler said she was surprised to see Stup there "because I don't consider J Street representative of true Zionist values, and this was a young Zionist leadership conference."

Stup did not respond to an interview request from JointMedia News Service. Vinokor said that from WZO's perspective, "We thought it was really important to have someone from J Street there, because that is a voice in the Jewish community that obviously not everyone agrees with … but we were trying to bring together the future of Zionist leadership in North America, and J Street is a part of that conversation."

Whisler called the conference a "really great opportunity to network with students from all over the country who are interested in Zionism and advocating on campus." Schwab was intrigued to learn how different Zionist youth movements could work together.

"We're dealing with very, very educated Zionists, who are probably under 21 and yet have been involved for [about] 12 years, and you see a wide range of abilities," she said. ■

When it comes to the Middle East, Harvard needs some schooling

Harvard University's upcoming conference on the "One State Solution" is the school's latest anti-Israel activity being thinly disguised by a veneer of academic posing.

By Steven Stotsky/JointMedia News Service

On March 3-4, Harvard University will host a two-day conference on the "One State Solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Guests include veteran anti-Israel academics, the founder of Electronic Intifada and an ex-Palestinian official. No one sympathetic to Israel is identifiable.

This sort of anti-Israel activity, thinly disguised by a veneer of academic posing, has become commonplace at this venerable Ivy League institution. In recent years, Harvard has hosted Holocaust defamer Norman Finkelstein, accused serial fabricator professor Ilan Pappe and Naim Ateek, founder of the anti-Israel, anti-Jewish Sabeel ministry. The department sponsoring the upcoming conference is home to Stephen Walt, co-author of the error-prone *The Israel Lobby.*

These anti-Zionist conclaves are an outward sign of a more insidious transformation of Harvard's Middle Eastern studies. At the crux of this transformation is the school's Center for Middle East Studies, which benefits from both taxpayer support and gifts from Gulf Arab donors. Harvard is one of 17 universities receiving federal Title VI funding for the purpose of increasing public knowledge about the Middle East and Islam. By targeting their donations to schools involved in the federally funded outreach effort, the Gulf Arab donors influence not only instructors at the university level but also, through them, those who will teach about the Middle East in primary and secondary schools.

The activities of the outreach center of Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies are instructive. The center's stated mission is to promote "a critical understanding of the diversity of the Middle East region." But its activities and programming reveal a dogmatic adherence to the polemical, often counter-factual Palestinian version of the Arab-Israeli conflict, rather than the presentation of authoritative and diverse scholarly viewpoints.

In 2003, Massachusetts education officials criticized Harvard for promoting a textbook called the *Arab World Notebook*, calling it "a piece of propaganda." The book contained falsehoods like the claim that Islam was the "second largest religious group in America," with six million members based on 1980s figures. Demographers put the current, expanded American Muslim population at just two or three million.

This is how the original published version of the *Notebook* described the Israeli War of Independence:

"As a result of Israel's declaration of Independence and its subsequent continued attempts to force the Palestinian Arab inhabitants out of their land, the neighboring Arab states vowed to come to the rescue of the Palestinian civilian population."

Professor Efraim Karsh's archival research shows that Arab flight was primarily self-induced. The notion that the Arab states attacked Israel to "rescue" the Palestinians is refuted by their open intent to wipe out the nascent Jewish state.

The *Notebook* offered an exculpatory narrative to explain the Arab defeat, claiming,

"The Arab armed forces were outnumbered 3-1... against 65,000 well-trained Jewish troops."

In fact, the entire Jewish population of Israel

continued on page 33

Op-Ed: Colleges playing catch-up on Israel

By Wayne L. Firestone

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Just as college students were finishing their winter exams, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg selected a partnership of The Technion Israel Institute of Technology and Cornell University to build a campus on Roosevelt Island that will become a global center for technological talent and entrepreneurship. Few people know that before these universities formalized collaboration on today's most cutting-edge engineering and scientific work, the Hillels at each of the institutions collaborated through networks of entrepreneurial students to advance common interests that spanned Jewish, social and business realms.

In this and many other respects, our students are ahead of us. In developing direct student-to-student ties, they have chosen the most direct way to connect with Israel via their Israeli peers. On more than 75 campuses nationwide, students are connected directly with Israel Fellows and MASA peer interns (trained by the Jewish Agency and Hillel) who encourage them to participate in scores of student Israel initiatives that speak to diverse political, cultural, educational and social interests. Today, tens of thousands of college students are now proactively defining their relationship with Israel in the most meaningful and intimate ways and not merely embracing a slogan, ideology or myth.

This picture is much different than the one often presented by campus critics and commentators. As an example, Tom Friedman of *The New York Times* recently presented a distorted picture of students' relationships to Israel. He claimed students at leading universities would "boycott" appearances by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The immediate reaction this produced proved him wrong: Three dozen mainstream student leaders from the University of Wisconsin responded by signing a public statement of support of the U.S.-Israel relationship—and sent it to Friedman—and a group of Jewish student leaders invited Netanyahu to speak on campus.

A similar phenomenon occurred last year when Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren was outrageously interrupted at the University of California, Irvine, by a small fringe group whose leaders were subsequently expelled, indicted and criminally convicted. Allowed to finish his speech, Oren did actually receive a standing ovation, although it was not a focus in the media.

UC Irvine was not the only campus to invite Oren; 85 student government presidents have invited the ambassador to speak on their campuses. Disruption of speakers and boycotts are real threats to democratic conversation and should not be conflated with other forms of legitimate political dissent or discourse.

For the past decade— regardless of the sitting government in Israel—we have seen students regularly exploring Israel personally, emotionally and intellectually in deeper and more nuanced ways than prior generations, even when they are confused or have questions about their Jewish identity or specific Israeli government policies. Many spent their winter break in Israel on a Birthright trip in a year forecasting more than 40,000 participants. Whether or not students agree with a particular policy of the Israeli government is probably the wrong question to ponder. The right question is how to make space for the "next generation" and beyond to love and explore Israel in their own way.

This spring semester, many students will return to the 22 North American campuses that were energized in the fall by Hillel's public "Talk Israel" discussions, held in 20-by-20 tents in the hearts of their campuses. "Talk Israel" engaged more than 4,000 Jewish and non-Jewish students, 55 percent of whom were not affiliated with Hillel. The event demonstrated the viability and self-confidence of Jewish students to "take back" the campus from polarizing voices by providing facilitated forums for civil discourse. "Talk Israel" will launch this spring on a host of other campuses.

Further, the self discovery occurring back on campus following the Israel trips is beginning to influence the larger uninvolved student cohort. According to The Israel Project-American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (TIP-AICE) online survey of 800 college students (400 Jewish), Jewish students may know less about Israel's history and politics than prior generations but they seem to know more about its people and are significantly more sympathetic than previously thought. In that survey, which was conducted last October and November by Neil Newhouse and Robert Blizzard, 68 percent of respondents defined themselves as "close" or "very close" to Israel and 73 percent agreed that Jews in America and Israel share a common identity.

Indeed, there are pernicious efforts to boycott Israeli speakers, goods and even academics on college campuses that will be highlighted at a forthcoming national conference on the boycott divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement to be held at the University of Pennsylvania. Despite a decade of efforts, the BDS movement has failed to make inroads on any of the campuses visited by its supporters, and this time was greeted by an immediate Penn official statement that it "… does not support sanctions or boycotts against Israel. Indeed, Penn has important and successful scholarly collaborations with Israeli institutions that touch on many areas of our academic enterprise."

Indeed, when asked about BDS activity in the TIP-AICE poll in light of the prevailing trends on campus, Jewish students overwhelmingly opposed these efforts, 70 percent to 5 percent.

When I visit campuses, it is not surprising that Jewish and non-Jewish students ask how they can visit or return to Israel now that their schools have dropped restrictive study abroad measures and are expanding academic ties. This is good news. Jewish students today see Israel, warts and all, as valuable and relevant to their lives. It is encouraging to see universities building new academic bridges in an effort to catch up with their students' already connected imaginations and passions. ■

Wayne L. Firestone is president and CEO of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

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Did the story of Purim have to happen at all?

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

Everyone loves Purim. What's not to like? Good food, costumes, making noise in shul, and a great story of heroism and salvation. So, I really don't like to ask this question but I will: did Purim have to happen?

Let me explain that rather odd question. But before I do, let me assure you that this is not my question alone. This question has been asked by generations of rabbis since the time of the Talmud, and it is not an attempt to throw cold water on Purim celebrations. It is an attempt to understand the actions of one of the main characters in the Purim story and to try to explain his motivation for doing something that he didn't have to do.

The character in question is Mordecai, who, along with his cousin Esther, serves as one of the two heroes of the Purim story. Mordecai's act of bravery and dedication to his identity as a Jew was the catalyst for the events which ended with the execution of Haman and the saving of the Jews of Shushan. When Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman, he took a stand for the "separateness" of the Jews and stood for the principle that a Jew should bow only to God.

Here's the problem, though. Contrary to what we might believe when we hear the Purim story, there is absolutely nothing in biblical tradition or in later Jewish law which prohibits a Jew from bowing down to a civil authority or any individual. Abraham did it. Jacob did it. Many others did so throughout our biblical history. Nothing is implied in performing an act of respect to another individual. Mordecai could have bowed down to Haman and ended the whole story right there. It was the act of refusing to bow down that convinced Haman he had to exterminate not just Mordecai but the entire Jewish community of Shushan.

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

Faced with the reality that Mordecai could have bowed down to Haman as everyone else did, many *aggadot* (legends) were written to defend his actions. Some rabbis said that Haman had decorated his robe with representations of the gods of the Persians and that it was to those figures that Mordecai refused to bow down.

Others said that Haman himself proclaimed divine status and that Mordecai could not bow down to him because he claimed he was a god. (Actually, if that is true, it would have made more sense to Mordecai to bow down to him in that case because not doing so might have confirmed Haman's supposed divine status since everyone knew Jews didn't bow down to other gods.)

Still others point out that since Haman was a descendant of Amalek, the archetypal enemy of Israel, Mordecai could not possibly bow down to him. So he was more than willing to push the confrontation knowing that it was a Jew's responsibility to destroy Amalek wherever he may be found.

It is interesting to note, however, that there are some texts which actually do criticize Mordecai for taking this stand. Some say that Mordecai endangered the Jews of Shushan needlessly, simply because of his own arrogance, and considered his act foolish.

In the interest of removing this controversy from our observance of the holiday of Purim, I am willing to give Mordecai the benefit of the doubt and assume he knew that Haman was an evil man who needed to be defeated. Haman's disproportional response to Mordecai's act is proof enough of this evil and makes Mordecai's act of civil disobedience an act standing for good against evil.

But the general question needs to be confronted in our lives.

The book of Esther is thought by some to be the paradigm of Jewish life in the Diaspora. Jews in the Diaspora live under the control of rulers who, in a moment and for no apparent reason, could turn against them. The entire story of Purim serves as a warning to always be vigilant.

Yet, at the same time, life in the Diaspora means making wise decisions about where and when to take such a stand. We should never compromise our deeply held religious principles or act against our understanding of Jewish law. But we should be careful to know which stands are required by our tradition and which merely serve as an opportunity to separate ourselves from others in the dominant culture. Such separation is valuable to insure our identity but can, under certain circumstances, cause us more trouble and can rob us of the opportunity to learn from others and be part of a greater community in which we live.

The moral of the story is clear. We must make our stands when appropriate but always ask ourselves: is such a stand really necessary? ■

The lessons of Purim

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The name of God is not mentioned even once in the Megillah

The Megillah of Esther is the only book of all the holy scriptures in which the name of God is not mentioned even once. The simple reason behind this is because the story of the Megillah was also recorded in the chronicles of the kings of Persia. If the Jewish people mentioned the name of God in the Megillah, the Persians who would read of the miracles of Purim in their publications, would have attributed the miracles to their gods – not the God of Israel.

But, as we know, everything in Torah has a deeper explanation in addition to the simple explanation. So we have to say that there must be a deeper lesson here.

Another interesting thing we find about the holiday has to do with the origin of the name Purim. Purim is a Persian word that literally means "lots" as in drawing lots in a lottery. In the story, the wicked Haman wanted a sign from heaven to determine which month would be the most favorable month in which to order the destruction of the Jews. His evil lottery came up with the month of Adar. So the question arises, "Why did the rabbis name the holiday after the evil lottery against the Jews by the evil Haman when the usual custom is to name a holiday after salvation or miracles – with the good things that happened on the day?" The holiday of Purim is a joyous celebration – even to the extent of being happy to the point of not being able to tell the difference between the righteous Mordechai and the evil Haman. So to explain this, let's look at another unique aspect of Purim.

At the time this terrible decree came against the Jews, they had never experienced a decree to wipe out the whole people. At the same time, we had two Jews in very, very high positions of the Persian government. Mordechai was a very important minister of the king. As it says in the Megillah "He sat in the gates of the king." The other high-ranking Jew was Esther – the Queen of Persia! So one would think that as soon as Mordechai and Esther found out about the terrible decree that was about to happen to the Jews they would use their influence on the government through their access to diplomatic channels. Mordechai being a high minister and Esther being the queen, both had the ability to work through the highest levels of diplomatic channels. Nevertheless, we see that they didn't initially take this option. What happened when Mordechai and Esther found out about this terrible decree? Mordechai put on sackcloth and ashes and went out into the street crying and pleading with the people to do *teshuva.* Esther decided to ask all the Jewish people in the city of Shushan to fast with her, going without food or water for three days. The point to notice here is that Mordechai and Esther, despite their access to the highest of diplomatic channels, went first to the spiritual realm for remedy for their plight. They knew that once everything was right in the spiritual level, everything would fall into place on the material level. Unfortunately, during the time of Esther and Mordechai the Jews living in the Persia were assimilating into the larger Persian culture at an alarming rate. We know this from the beginning of the Megillah where it describes a royal feast given by King Achashveros. He invited people from throughout his realm, including Jews, to participate in the festivities. The Jews felt very close to and part of the Persian culture and participated fully in the feast and activities. Much of the food and activities were not in accordance with Jewish law. It was the abandonment of their obligation to fulfill God's mitzvoth and live according to Jewish values that brought about the evil decree of Haman. Knowing this, Mordechai and Esther felt that, as leaders, they had to lead the Jewish people in doing *teshuva* through prayers and fasting. Once that was accomplished, they would use the diplomatic channels to take care of the rest of the physical necessities to nullify Haman's decree.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

Once our spiritual well-being is taken care of, everything else in the material world will fall into place.

This is a general lesson we learn from Purim. Jewish people have to look at the world in such a way that when there are certain things that are happening that seem to be negative against the Jewish people, they should say right away "Let's see if there is anything we are doing that is wrong and needs to be corrected in order to prevent this decree from happening. As soon as that is taken care of properly, God will see to it that everything else in the physical arena will take care of itself and fall into place.

This idea is illustrated in the name Purim, as well as in the fact that God's name is not mentioned in the entire Megillah. These two factors are instructive to us. When we look at Purim and at Haman's decree, don't only look at it superficially as an evil man trying to do something evil to the Jews. Rather, look at what's behind the obvious physical manifestation and try to see what allowed Haman to hatch his evil plot and how he was enabled to almost execute it.

We also find that God's name is not mentioned in the Megillah. This is showing that God is behind everything, but God's involvement is not always revealed. So this is what the Megillah is telling us, that even in a situation where you have God's name concealed, that is to say that we don't see openly the hand of God, we should know that behind all of this, definitely there is God's hand. It's the same thing with Purim - that behind Haman's plan is also God's involvement. What is God trying to do, in a concealed way, through Haman's actions? God is sending us a message telling us that we must correct our spiritual well-being. Once our spiritual well-being is taken care of, everything else in the material world will fall into place. God wants to be merciful and generous to us, but we, as a whole, have to do our part.

Furthermore, we conclude that the lesson we learn from Purim is that if we do connect ourselves to God, later on we will have the merit to see great miracles even in the midst of the darkness of exile (including our own) until, we hope one day, that all of these concealments will be revealed with the coming of Moshiach. May it be very soon in our days. ■

March events at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Friday Night Lights

Friday, March 2. 6 p.m. Family Friendly Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 7 p.m. Dairy Dinner

On selected Friday nights, Beth Israel offers a family friendly Shabbat dairy dinner for $7 per person, with no charge for children 3 and under. Families and individuals are encouraged to attend the full evening, which includes a Friday evening service at 6 p.m., and all the traditional rituals of the Friday Shabbat meal. Because no payments can be accepted on Shabbat, there must be a pre-payment which will confirm the family's or individual's reservation.

The Muppets Take Beth Israel

Wednesday, March 7, 6:15 p.m. Maariv Service; 6:45 p.m. Megilla Reading with a Muppets Theme

The general community is invited to join the fun as both adults and children wear costumes in honor of Purim and the Muppets. The evening includes a full Megilla reading along with amazing Muppet acts of singing, dancing, and more, and ends with a sing-along performance by Dr. Teeth and the Electric Balagan. Noisemakers are provided along with the Book of Esther with translations (including large print and children's editions.)

On Thursday, March 8, at 8 a.m. the entire Scroll of Esther will be read again, followed by a bagels and lox breakfast.

Henry Gershowitz Memorial Shabbat

Saturday, March 10, 9:30 a.m.

This participatory Shabbat service honors the memory of Beth Israel's past-president, Henry Gershowitz. Until he passed away in 1998, Gershowitz was not only a pillar of the congregation, but he was also a regular at Shabbat Services, often leading Pesukei D'zimrah, as well as serving as the Wednesday night minyan captain. Gershowitz also encouraged new members to participate in leading the Shabbat service which inspires Beth Israel Men's Club to honor him with this annual event. Volunteers lead every part of the service, followed by a Kiddush generously sponsored by the Gershowitz family and Men's Club. Sign up online at http://www.bethisrael-aa.org/showsheets.php

For more information, contact Haran Rashes haran@umich.edu or Charles Weaver charles_weaver@post.harvard.edu.

Purim Celebration and The Great Muppet Carnival

Sunday, March 11, Skits, songs, abridged Megilla reading, 10 a.m.; Carnival, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

The community is invited to attend this morning of fun activities. All Beth Israel Religious School students will also be attending. It will begin with an abridged reading of the megilla, songs and a Purim *shpiel* (play) performed by the 4th grade students at Beth Israel, retelling the story of Esther. Following the megilla reading, there will be a Purim carnival with fun games for all to enjoy. The entire Purim celebration is free and open to the community. The Beth Israel Men's Club will also be selling a pizza bagel lunch beginning at noon.

Prostate Screening – Is It Worth It?ï

Sunday, March 18, 5:30 p.m.

Following the Sunday minyan on March 18 at 5 p.m. Urology Specialist Dr. Alon Weizer from the University of Michigan Medical Center will bring a team of colleagues to discuss prostate screening, which has become a matter of controversy.

Dr. Alon Weizer

One in six men in the United States will eventually be found to have prostate cancer, making it the second most common form of cancer in men after skin cancer. An estimated 32,050 men died of prostate cancer in 2010 and 217,730 men received the diagnosis. The disease is rare before age 50, and most deaths occur after age 75. One common method of detecting prostate problems is the P.S.A. test, routinely given to men 50 and older. This test measures a protein—prostate-specific antigen—that is released by prostate cells.

However, last autumn the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommended that healthy men should no longer receive a P.S.A. blood test to screen for prostate cancer because the test does not save lives over all and often leads to more tests and treatments that needlessly cause pain, impotence and incontinence in many. This recommendation could substantially change the care given to men age 50 and older.

The task force's recommendations are followed by most medical groups. But advocates for those with prostate cancer promised to fight the recommendation. Baseball's Joe Torre, the financier Michael Milken and Rudolph W. Giuliani, the former New York City mayor, are among tens of thousands of men who believe a P.S.A. test saved their lives. This event will allow urologists from the University of Michigan to weight in their opinions. This talk is sponsored by the Beth Israel Men's Club For more information, contact Alon Weizer at azweizer@yahoo.com.

Lunch and Laugh Series

Wednesdays, March 14 and 21, noon-1:15 p.m. at the Garfunkel Schteingart Activity Center (2010 Washtenaw)

In honor of the Purim season, these sessions will offer video and audio presentations. stories and jokes, to celebrate the season of laughter. Participants are asked to bring a dairy lunch and Beth Israel will provide beverages and dessert.

Lunch and Learn

Wednesday, March 28, noon–1:15 p.m. at the Garfunkel Schteingart Activity Center

The topic for this study period is "Preparation for Pesach—an opportunity to study traditions relating to Pesach." Participants are asked to bring a dairy lunch and Beth Israel will provide beverages and dessert.

Thirsty Third Thursday

Thursday, March 15 after the 7:30 p.m. minyan

This monthly event, sponsored by the Men's Club, includes a discussion of religious themes at one of the local coffee shops. For more information, contact Shelley Aronson at 222-0079 or firstriver14@gmail.com.

Red Cross Blood Drive at Beth Israel

Sunday, April 22, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Beth Israel's annual blood drive will be conducted in the Beth Israel Social Hall with freshly baked cookies and hot chocolate. Giving blood is an easy way to save a life or two or three. To sign up online, visit www.givelife.org, click Donate Blood Now and fill in the email address and birth date where indicated, and the sponsor code, which is: bic13. The donor will then have to fill out a registration page, click the bottom button and they will be directed to the Beth Israel Blood drive. They will click the radio button next to the blood drive where they would like to donate and then make their appointment on the page that will appear. If there are problems in signing up online, donors may call Tamar Weaver at 677-1736 who will be glad to do follow through on it. Each donor answers a critical need that cannot be supplied in any other way.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, March 10 and 24, 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning program for toddlers and preschoolers along with their families. Tot Shabbat features singing, dancing, stories, and prayers to celebrate Shabbat. The leaders of Tot Shabbat are Perutz Hirshbein on the second Saturday and Jessica Kander on the fourth Saturday of the month. Peretz Hirshbein is the assistant director of the Early Childhood Center at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and the current vice president for education on the Beth Israel board of directors. Jessica De Young Kander is a graduate of the School of Education at the University of Michigan and former preschool teacher. She currently teaches at Eastern Michigan University where she also earned her masters degree in Children's Literature and a masters certificate in the Teaching of Writing.

Tot Shabbat meets at Beth Israel downstairs in room 15. Following services, child size tables are set out for out Tot Shabbat kids and their families are always invited to stay to enjoy a kiddush lunch with the rest of the congregation.

Kehillat Shabbat

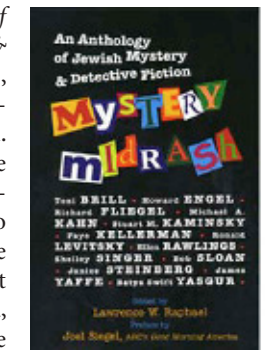
Saturday, March 10, 11 a.m.

Kehillat Shabbat is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning service for kids in 3rd–5th grade. The program is designed for kids to have a great Shabbat experience, including a kid-friendly service along with games and other activities each month to help teach about holidays and Jewish values while building a stronger community for the kids in a fun way. Gabe Pachter facilitates a service that is filled with student participation in the prayers, interactive discussions, and always ends with a special snack. Kehillat Shabbat is a time once a month for elementary school students to celebrate Shabbat, to schmooze, and to learn together. Kehillat Shabbat meets at Beth Israel on the second Saturday of the month downstairs in room 12.

Beth Israel Reads

Saturday, March 10, 12:45 p.m. Culminating Book Discussion.

Each year a different book is chosen for the Beth Israel Reads effort. This year's book is *Mystery Midrash, An Anthology of Jewish Mystery & Detective Fiction*, edited by Lawrence W. Raphael. From a corporate giant's kidnapping of a rabbi, to the disappearance of the clarinetist in a klezmer band, to four rabbis' use of their text interpretation skills to help a detective solve a murder that one of them has committed, this unique collection of mysteries enlightens, intrigues and entertains. Throughout the stories' tangled puzzles and suspenseful adventures, the characters solve not only the "whodunit"-type mysteries, but also struggle to solve the mystery of their spiritual lives."



Copies of the book are available in the Beth Israel Library. Copies are also available on Amazon.com and the jewishlights.com, and the Ann Arbor Public Library. This book can also be purchased as Kindle and from iTunes

Mini Minyan for children in K–2nd grades

Saturday March 10, 11 a.m.

Mini Minyan is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning service on the second Saturday each month for all kids in kindergarten through 2nd grade. Mini Minyan was designed in collaboration with many of the parents from Beth Israel and serves as a bridge for kids between Tot Shabbat and Kehillat Shabbat. It shares many of the favorite songs and stories from Tot Shabbat while beginning to teach prayers and incorporate activities similar to Kehillat Shabbat. The Mini Minyan service is led by Program Director Jacob Kander with special games and activities led by a team of parent volunteers. All parents are welcome to join in this service along with their children. Mini Minyan meets at Beth Israel on the second Saturday of the month downstairs in room 16.

General community is always welcome to events

All of Beth Israel's events, plus all educational offerings are open to the general community, often at no cost. For further information call 665-9897 or visit www.bethisrael-aa.org. ■

133rd Season **ums 11/12**

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra
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Berlin Nocturne
Max Raabe and Palast Orchester
Saturday \ March 10 \ 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

A nostalgic homage to the legendary nocturnal flair of the Weimar era, Max Raabe and Palast Orchester embody the high style and music glory of the 1920s and 1930s. The debonair Raabe has a singular ability to capture the cunning rasp of the cabaret singer, the confident *bel canto* hero, the oily melodiousness of the revue beau, the carefree timbre of early jazz, and the falsetto of ragtime, all backed by his stellar 12-member band. His art lies in revealing the enigmatic intelligence, ambiguity, musical power and complexity of the "German chansons" from the turbulent Weimar Republic – and then shaking it up with a completely unexpected cover from the contemporary pop realm. Max Raabe will surely "disarm and charm with impeccable glamour." (*The Boston Globe*) "Fascinating. A born crooner." (*The Washington Post*)

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Ex Machina
The Andersen Project
Pure Michigan Renegade
Written and directed by Robert Lepage
Starring Yves Jacques
Thursday \ March 15 \ 7:30 pm
Friday \ March 16 \ 8 pm
Saturday \ March 17 \ 8 pm
Power Center • Ann Arbor

Freely inspired by two stories by Hans Christian Andersen ("The Dryad" and "The Shadow") and from anecdotes drawn from the famed Danish author's Parisian travels, *The Andersen Project* calls on some of Robert Lepage's recurring themes: unraveling relationships, personal demons, unfulfilled fantasies, the thirst for recognition and fame, and compromise that comes too late. Drawn from Andersen's life and writings, yet filled with Lepage's trademark humor and technological brilliance, this off-the-wall masterpiece features the incomparable Yves Jacques, a one-man tour-de-force, as he seamlessly and brilliantly moves between multiple characters and storylines.
Content appropriate for mature audiences only. Performed in English and French (with projected titles). A strobe light is used in this performance.

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High-Definition Broadcast from the National Theatre, London
National Theatre Live: *The Comedy of Errors*
By William Shakespeare
Directed by Dominic Cooke
Sunday \ March 18 \ 7 pm
Michigan Theater

Two sets of twins separated at birth collide in the same city without meeting for one crazy day, as multiple mistaken identities lead to confusion on a grand scale.

San Francisco Symphony: American Mavericks
Pure Michigan Renegade
Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Featuring:
Paul Jacobs organ
Jeremy Denk piano
Mason Bates electronica
Jessye Norman soprano
Joan LaBarbara & Meredith Monk vocalists
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Emanuel Ax piano
Kiera Duffy soprano
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Presented with major support from the **Creative Ventures Leadership Fund.**
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TBE's Second Night Seder

Saturday, April 7 at 6 pm

Led by Rabbi Levy and Rabbi Delson. Reservations will open to the general community on Monday, March 26. Please call the office, 665-4744, or sign up online, www.templebethemeth.org.

Dinner Menu: matza ball soup, herb roasted chicken, vegan stuffed portabella mushroom, asparagus, herb roasted potatoes, and Passover cookies. Prepared by Simply Scrumptious.

Cost: $20 per adult (13 and older), $15 per child (ages 4-12). Children under 3 are free if sharing a dinner with an adult.

Temple Beth Emeth
2309 Packard St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Phone: 734-665-4744 www.templebethemeth.org

Youth discover Judaism via Reconstructionist approach

Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

A boy wears a crown and another boy dons a black hat. The audience thinks: "Here comes another Purim Spiel." But while the one with the crown is named Ahasuerus, he is the "King of the Playground." And the one with the black hat is a familiar playground nemesis, the instigator, feeding his friend's ego and telling tall tales about the other children. Oh, and his name is Haman. Thus, young people began their version of the Purim story for the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah annual Purim celebration. Their original play reframed the familiar story as a playground drama complete with bullies, peacemakers and the ones daring enough to tell it like it is, a girl called Esther and her brother, Mordechai. Through the play, young Jews were offering their take on the story and bringing the Megillah alive for both children and adults in the audience.

The students were putting into practice the teachings of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, who promoted the idea that to make Judaism relevant to each succeeding generation they must have in-depth knowledge of Jewish traditions and teachings and encouraged to discuss, dissect and evolve these practices to make them meaningful to their lives.

Rabbi Kaplan's ideas have influenced the establishment of many new Jewish traditions and encouraged changes throughout modern Judaism. His teachings form the basis of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah religious school. Led by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia and head teacher Brian Duchemin, the school seeks to provide students with Jewish cultural literacy while instilling a sense of discovery and curiosity as well as the ability to interpret Judaism so that it will have meaning to them.

The curriculum of the school, called "Beit Sefer" or House of Learning, is tailored to how children learn at different developmental stages with a focus on building community, participation, and personal spirituality as well as critical thinking skills. The school uses music and experiential learning to engage its students. Teachers seek to accommodate students wherever they may be at in their Jewish learning allowing for different backgrounds and family compositions.

This approach is particularly noticeable in the self-paced Hebrew program. The older students are divided into small knowledge-based groups based on their ability in Hebrew, rather than age. The students work in small groups at a comfortable, but challenging, rate and are able to receive one-on-one attention from teachers and teaching assistants. The Hebrew program has helped students who begin their religious education during upper elementary or middle school still successfully prepare for their bar or bat mitzvahs.

PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHANIE ROWDEN

Aleph Bet: Peter Cohn, Carl Gombert, Deron Lessure, teacher Sophia Blummenthal, Lucy Tobier, and Lior Cooper

Meanwhile, the youngest class, the *Ketanim* (or "little ones"), engage in experiential, active learning incorporating Torah stories, holidays, and Hebrew into activities such as puppets, playacting, songs and dances. A favorite of the students is yoga style movements where children shape Hebrew letters out of their bodies and acting out new Hebrew words associated with that letter.

Jewish learning for the middle class, *Yeladim* ("children"), focuses on the context of Jewish history, prayer and stories for middle-elementary school-age students. The class engages in deeper discussion of holiday rituals and traditions. The students are encouraged to master what they learn by inventing creative ways of retelling and connecting these elements of Judaism.

The oldest class, the *Gedolim* ("large ones") encourages self analysis and expression, modeling the Jewish tradition for in-depth intellectual engagement. Upper-elementary to pre-bar / bat mitzvah age students engage in in-depth discussions while they wrestle with their own solutions to ethical or moral issues. This class might hold a mock trial, write and perform an original play or explore alternative value and ideas about the nature of life—and then discuss their choices.

All students come together in the middle of their morning for *Shirah* – a singing session led by Aura Ahuvia – to instill a sense of community, joy of prayer and knowledge of common songs sung during Shabbat services.

"The discussions are great," says Livia Belman Wells, "We discuss a lot of politics but our teacher brings us back to the subject matter eventually." Livia is one of several students who have continued attending Sunday morning classes while she prepares for her bat mitzvah. ■

March announcements from Temple Beth Emeth

Sooji Min, special to the WJN

TNT Goes to a Comedy Show: Kira Soltanovich

Saturday, March 10, 8 p.m.

TNT will be heading to the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase (in the basement of Seva's Restuarant on E. Liberty Street) to see Kira Soltanovich. Tickets are $13. Soltanovich was born in the former Soviet Union, and raised by immigrant parents in San Francisco. Soltanovich has plenty to laugh about. And whether it's stand-up sketch, hidden camera or improv, Soltanovich keeps nightclub and television audiences laughing. Couples and Singles are welcome to attend. For more information or to RSVP (no later than March 5) contact Brett Willner, bwillner@templebethemeth.org or call the TBE office (734) 665-4744.

Purim Carnival

Wednesday, March 7, 5 p.m.

Megillah Reading and Carnival Food, Games, and Prizes. Game tickets are 4/$1. Sisterhood will be selling delicious hamentashen. Pizza will be available for a quick dinner.

TNT Volunteers at Alpha House

Thursday, March 15, 5–8:30 p.m.

Twenties and Thirties will be volunteering again at Alpha House (4290 Jackson Rd.). Volunteers can come for the entire event for just for a period of time. Activities include preparing and serving dinner to the shelter residence. Following dinner there is an optional volunteer opportunity to help out with activity time with many of the kids living there. RSVP by March 9 to Brett Willner, bwillner@templebethemeth.org or (734) 665-4744.

Tot Purim Carnival

Wednesday, March 7, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Families with young children get to celebrate Purim too, but in a quieter setting. Join TBE for age-appropriate games, face painting and prizes in the lower level of the Temple, while the big kids play upstairs. Come dressed in your favorite costume, kids and parents alike. The 5 p.m. megillah reading precedes the carnival.

Men's Torah Study

Wednesdays, March 14 and 28, 7:30 p.m.

Join the Men's Torah study for an evening of learning. Don't be fooled, they aren't always serious; they like to have a good time, too. Refreshments are always served. For more questions contact Roger Stutesman, rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net.

Women's Torah Study

Mondays, March 5 and 19, 7-8:30 p.m.

This month, Cantor Annie Rose will lead two Women's Torah Study at Temple Beth Emeth. Cantor Annie Rose will use The Women of Reform Judaism's Women's Commentary which has become a major source of insight for those studying Torah in depth or simply reading the weekly parsha, portion. The Women's Torah group will be studying Ki Tisa and Vayikra.

Rabbi Levy's Friday Lunch & Learn: Gluttony & Other Sins

Fridays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, noon-1 p.m.

Each week on Friday, Rabbi Levy will teach an informal session on Gluttony and Other Sins. As always bring participants should bring their own lunch.

Spirituality Book Club

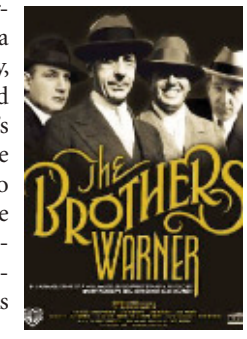
Thursday, March 1, noon–1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 13, 7:30–9 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club will continue on their journey in March. This month Book Club will be reading *As a Driven Leaf*, by Rabbi Milton Steinberg. The novel explores the 2nd century Jewish life of incorporating Rabbinic Judaism and Hellenistic ideology, Jewish self-determination against the Romans, and the interdependence of reason and faith. Analysis of texts and group discussion will provide lively sessions each month. Participants are welcome to drop in for selected sessions or the entire series through June. Visit the TBE website, www.templebethemeth.org/content/spirituality-book-club-reading-list, for the book list for the year. Contact Cantor Rose, cantorannie@gmail.com, with questions.

Movie Wednesday: The Brothers Warner

Wednesday, December 21, 1–3 p.m.

March's Wednesday Movie is *The Brothers Warner.* Harry, Albert, Sam, and Jack, the Warner brothers, turned a storefront into a dream factory. Filmmaker Cass Warner Sperling tells a story of sibling rivalry, social conscience, and the silver screen. It's a story told from the inside by those who lived it and from the outside by film historians. Snacks are provided and everyone is welcome.



Beit Café: Adult Education Night

Monday, March 26, 7–9 p.m.

Join TBE for another Beit Café celebrating The Year of Torah: Adult Education Night. There is a great line up of community teachers and temple clergy for this evening. This month there will only be one class during each session. At 7 p.m. Rabbi Salazar, from Sofer on Site will have a discussion, and at 8 p.m. Rabbis Levy and Delson will lead a session on "How to Lead a Passover Seder." Come for one hour or both to this free event. For more information, contact Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org. ■

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ECC opens new infant rooms

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

In the closing days of August 2011, a new room was carved out of the Bunny Room, creating a cozy, home-like space to care for children less than twelve months. With enough room for six cribs, rockers for nursing mothers, low shelves for easy access to stimulating materials, as well as a large space for floor gyms and a soft climber, the Baby Bunny room is a calm, softly lit place for infants to be nurtured, and for parents to share experiences. Danielle Sears, a long-time infant teacher at the ECC, feels that "it is so great to have a cozy space for new infants and new moms."

There have been many changes in the way the JCC's early childhood program has offered care for infants over the years. Twenty years ago, the infant and toddler program was run separately from the preschool program. Ten years ago, the ECC added a second infant-toddler classroom. But this change might be the one that brings infant program closest to ECC Director Noreen De Young's long hoped for ideal. According to De Young, "For years I wanted to create infant spaces that would feel different from the rest of the ECC. More like home. Our infants can still interact with the toddlers as they become mobile, but since the infants are all on their own very individual schedules, they have their own quiet space."

The new infant room has been so popular, that over the winter break, a second infant room was built within the Duck Room, providing space for six more infants. The new spaces rely on natural and incandescent lighting, using the overhead fluorescent lights very rarely. The soft colors in the rooms and decorative lamps provide a home-like feel. ■

For more information, contact Noreen De Young at 971-0990 or noreendeyoung@jccfed.org.

Duckling teacher Tracy Spears rocks one of the youngest infants to sleep

Baby Bunny teacher Danielle Sears feeds one of her charges as two more explore the floor gyms

Infant teacher Matasha Allen gets some snuggling time with one of the Baby Bunnies

JCC Seeks Teen Athletes for Maccabi Games

Shoshana Jackson, special to the WJN

This year, the JCC Maccabi Games is celebrating its 30th Anniversary! The Games is an Olympic-style sporting competition that runs every summer. The Ann Arbor Delegation has been invited to participate in the Memphis, TN Games.

Join over 1,800 Jewish teen athletes competing this year to celebrate this historic occasion. The Maccabi Games provide a unique and life-changing experience for teens to unite from all across the globe.

Memphis is hosting the following events: boys baseball, girls basketball, soccer, dance, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track-and-field and - new this year - boys lacrosse and co-ed flag football! Grab your mitt, shoes, paddles, sticks or racquets and join us in Memphis for the 30th Anniversary of the JCC Maccabi Games!

Contact Shoshana Jackson, Teen Director, at shoshanajackson@jccfed.org or 734-971-0990, for more information.

HDS Student Council – philanthropists and community leaders

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

Learning to be responsible community leaders and philanthropists is an important part of the curriculum at the Hebrew Day School. Through the activities of the fifth grade Student Council, children learn to look beyond themselves and think about the needs of others. "It is our chance to help both the school and the community," says Shoshana Leflein and Ethan Kahana.

Mara Metler helps Gan student Yoel Bechar at the Book Sale

At the beginning of year, when the students learn about democracy and the election process, they participate in their own process of electing Student Council officers. To integrate language arts curricular standards, students write and deliver persuasive speeches in which they explain their skill set for their desired position – president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer or grade representative. The students vote in a democratic process, and each student receives a role in the Council. "Everyone is included," says Hadas Kluger, "and everyone has an important job to do."

Once formed, the first task of the Student Council, assigned to the vice president and the grade representatives, is to research ideas and survey all the students in the school. In previous years, project ideas that supported the community included buying car seats and baby products for Ozone House; collecting food for Food Gatherers; raising money for cystic fibrosis research; and making Elijah's cups for Jewish Family Service Passover Seders for seniors. "This year," explained Mara Metler, "Student Council will support the Humane Society and the Peace Neighborhood Center. At the center (which offers programs for children, families, and individuals who are affected by social and economic problems) we will plant bulbs and shrubs and do spring cleaning." The students will also write friendly letters to senior citizens living in area assisted-living facilities.

Student Council projects that have supported the school have included donating money for a new playground; purchasing a shed for playground equipment, and benches and bird houses for the school's Shelly Volk Memorial Garden; preparing welcome bags for new students; raising money for new computers and lockers; and raising money for school tambourines. The school project that has received extensive use by many visitors is the Comfort Station, a place in the school's hallway with a chess table and two chairs. This year, the Council will add two new benches to our outdoor garden in the woods, and will sponsor a Spelling Bee. "Student Council is motivational," says Amitai Hendrickson. "The first project kept us going and wanting to do more. As soon as I did it once, I learned how to keep doing it. We are doing great things, and we will keep doing great things," Hendrickson said. "It is great that classes keep adding to our community. The classes before us gave us computers and lockers. We are adding to our community and our school," says Elijah Shore. "We are helping the future generations," confirmed Jonah Eichner.

Lily Rosenberg and Jacob Itkin empty the recycling bins

Corine Burgard and Lily Rosenberg glean ideas from second graders

Student Council projects often require fundraising or grant writing to support the implementation. Students have multiple ways to raise the necessary money such as snack sales during lunch and walk-a-thons or book sales. They also write grants to the Ann Arbor Community Youth Foundation and present their proposal in poster form at a student award ceremony. This year, they are also writing letters to local businesses requesting a $100 match to the grant they receive from the Foundation. Each year, the Student Council leaves a small reserve for the next year's Council to get them started. Mira Strauss, Student Council President, says, "The fourth graders are inspired by us, as we were inspired by last year's fifth graders. We feel challenged to do even better."

The Council runs on a committee system. Groups of students gather together to research and plan their projects. The subcommittee charged with installing the new garden benches is researching how to cement it to the ground, who to hire, and what it will cost. The subcommittee responsible for the spring cleaning is researching the proper plants and bushes to plant, and the needed garden tools and their costs. "We learn how it feels to be in the position of being in charge to help the school," says Gabe Rosenberg. While the subcommittees rotate, there is one standing committee—the Green School Committee. A regular Student Council responsibility is to gather and empty the recycling bins twice a week and to research other ways to remain a Green School.

Elijah Shore and Sam Greenberg count the proceeds from the Book Sale which were donated to the Humane Society

"The Student Council is a great thing," says Ahava Kopald. "It gives everyone a way to share ideas on how to help the school, our community, and the environment. When we help, we feel good and the people we help feel good too." "Student Council not only makes the school a better place; it makes Ann Arbor a better place," says Corine Burgard. "We used to talk about doing good things; now we get to do them," added Jacob Itkin. "Student Council gives us the opportunity to think of new ways to help people," says Zach Rochman. Says teacher Carol Gannon and advisor to the Student Council, "When learning is authentic and relevant to the real world, students are inspired to learn and to continue learning." ■

For more information about Hebrew Day School see www.hdsaa.org or call 971-4633 for a private tour.

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JCC youth programs

Shoshana Jackson, special to the WJN

March Enrichment Class Mini-Session

The JCC is planning an exciting schedule of afterschool classes for the month of March. Due to the timing of Spring break and Passover break, Youth Enrichment classes for elementary students will run for four weeks, beginning Monday, March 5, and continuing through the week of March 26. These fun and stimulating afternoon classes run from 4:30–5:30 p.m. and are open to both JCC members and non-members. Snack and supervision in the JCC's afterschool programs before each class are included for all class participants.

The enrichment schedule is still being finalized, but will likely include several returning favorites such as Fit Kids, Ball Sports, Etiquette, Brain Games and Clay Creations. In addition to the afterschool enrichment classes at the JCC, another session of the popular Swim with Kim class will be offered on Tuesday evenings from 5:30–6:30 p.m. at High Point School. Class fees vary; registration and payment will be due by March 1.

Snow Day Programs

The Youth Department of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor is once again offer Snow Day programs during the winter. On days when the JCC is able to open but Ann Arbor Public Schools are cancelled due to winter weather conditions, a Snow Day program will be offered from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. for students in grades K-5; middle school students may participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Students will enjoy games, crafts, gym time, and fun in the snow (weather permitting).

Snow Day programs are for JCC members only. Registration in advance is not required, but parents will be asked to fill out a registration form and submit payment when they arrive. The cost for each Snow Day is $50; additional siblings and Kids' Konnection & Kids' Club participants receive discounts.

School's Out Days

The JCC will offer a full day School's Out Day program on Monday, March 12, for AAPS and other students. The JCC will also offer a full day School's Out Day program on Friday, March 16 for HDS and other students. School's Out Day programs are for JCC members ONLY in grades K-5; middle school students may also participate as helpers for a reduced fee. The cost for each School's Out Day is $38 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($4 less for additional siblings) and $10 for Extended Care from 4–6 p.m. Advance registration required.

Kids' Night Out Event

Every other month, the JCC offers a Kids' Night Out event featuring games, crafts, dinner, and a movie or other special activities. The next Kids' Night Out will be a special Girls' Night Out/Boys' Night Out, with separate spaces and activities for girls and boys, on Saturday, March 24 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the JCC. Details about the event will be available in early March.

Kids' Night Out events are open to JCC members and non-members in grades K–5. The cost for JCC members is $20 (additional siblings: $18). The cost for non-members is $25 (additional siblings: $23). Registrations and payment will be due by Thursday, March 22. ■

For registration forms or more information about JCC youth programs, visit www.jccannarbor.org or contact Shoshana Jackson at shoshanajackson@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Ken Pardes to celebrate Purim on March 4

Matan Naamani, special to the WJN

Ken Pardes, the local chapter of Habonim Dror, has announced its upcoming activities for the winter semester. So far this year *chanichim* (participants) in "the ken" enjoyed the annual Winter Olympics, celebrated Tu B'shvat together, and the ken's *madrichim* (staff) had a great time with the Hebrew Day School students at their first ever HDS Shabbaton. The first event this semester will be the annual Purim celebration on March 4. Future events include another tikkun olam project, a Lag Ba'Omer celebration, and two Shabbatons.

Members of Ken Pardes and Ken Afikim (the Habonim Dror ken in Detroit) enjoyed the annual Winter Olympics at Burns Park

Ken Pardes is the local chapter of Habonim Dror North America, a national Jewish and Zionist youth movement and is also associated with Habonim Dror Camp Tavor near Kalamazoo. Members of "the ken" partake in a unique educational and youth-lead Jewish community, celebrate Shabbat and *chaggim* (Jewish holidays) together. Ken Pardes events also provide the opportunity for interested families to find out more about Camp Tavor and to meet its *chanichim* (campers) and *madrichim* (counselors).

Ken Pardes's events for this semester are as follows:

- Purim Peulah: March 4
- Older and younger *chanichim* Shabbatons: March 16–17
- Tikkun Olam: March 25
- Passover Peulah: April 15
- Lag Ba'Omer Peulah: May 11
- End of the year BBQ: May 27

For more information about Ken Pardes, contact Matan Naamani at ken.annarbor@gmail.com or 904-6578. Ken Pardes can also be found on Facebook and Youtube. ■

I recently returned to the area to open up a new restaurant, Mani Osteria. We received great assistance from Ann Arbor State Bank with the many financial details.

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June 25 - August 24

Camp Raanana

The JCC's Outdoor Day Camp For Children Entering Grades K–8

Early Bird Registration Pizza Party!

Sunday, March 18
12:30-2 p.m.
Jewish Community Center
(2935 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor)

Meet Camp Raanana staff, camp director, Shoshana Jackson and assistant camp director, Shannon Link and spend time with friends! Register before the March 30th Early Bird Deadline to receive $5 off per session, PLUS, any child that attends receives a coupon good for $10 off total camp tuition (Early Bird or not!)

For more information or to RSVP, contact Shoshana Jackson at 971-0990 or shoshanajackson@jccfed.org, or visit www.CampRaanana.com

Jewish educators enhance their skills

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

Teachers from local Jewish schools, including Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, and the religious schools of Beth Israel Congregation, Temple Beth Emeth, the Jewish Cultural Society and the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, attended an educator's workshop in January, part of an ongoing effort to enrich local teaching through a biannual continuing education series. The workshop, which was held at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, was sponsored by the Jewish Educator's Council, and funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

Rabbi Noam Katz, a Jewish musician and composer who teaches at a Reform Jewish day school in Toronto, offered two workshops on January 26. The first, intended for teachers of preschoolers and lower elementary-age children, was "Text and Values through Music and Activities, and Making Prayer Meaningful for Young Children."

"What does it mean to 'create sanctuary,' a safe, compelling space for our youth?" he asked as an opening question. "We have to provide something that our Jewish children can take with them, like the Mishkan, which traveled with our people through the desert." He then led the teachers through a detailed look at teaching new songs in the classroom, and spoke of the need to innovate technologically. "Put the words of prayer onto screens [projected onto the wall] and i-tablets, so that the sanctuary moved with wherever the kids are." He also demonstrated how to involve the kids in music by setting the words to body gestures. Even sign language can engage young children, helping them connect the words they're singing with physical expressiveness.

Katz's second workshop focused on older children. "Drama Games to Teach Prayer and Torah Stories" led teachers through several hilarious, instructive games and exercises, all of which helped focus attention on the deeper, more profound meanings of prayers. For example, initially Katz invited the 20-plus teachers to think of a character from Torah, and without speaking, walk around the room "in character." From there, he directed them to greet each other in character, and ultimately, to think of one thing their character was "praying for." In pairs, the teachers then introduced their characters to the group. In the processing of the exercise that followed, teachers observed that the activity taught them that these biblical characters were real people, with real aspirations, fears and hopes. What is more, such activities can usefully review or solidify a period of Torah study, or even help teachers gauge how much students have learned.

Rabbi Noam Katz performs for ECC and HDS students

From there, Katz had the teachers shape imaginary clay into a unique expression of some aspect of creation that inspired them. The teachers created imaginary animals, plants, and even mountains, before throwing or handing the imaginary ball to the next person. Katz concluded this 10-minute exercise with a recitation of the *chatima*, or conclusion, of the *Yotzer* (creation) prayer, driving home the point that prayer exercises such as these can make davening into a full-bodied, engaging, communal experience. With these examples and more, Katz said, teachers can help Jewish youth open to a world of meaning in the *siddur*, or prayer book. "At some point, you want [to teach] intimacy with the text."

Katz spent the remainder of the weekend in Ann Arbor, providing a concert on Sunday morning for area Jewish youth, and working with individual Jewish schools and with the preschool, the JCC's Early Childhood Center. A highlight of his teaching was the music and stories that grew out of his time spent with the Abuyudaya, a group of Jews living in Uganda. His stories, and slides, about an interesting if not well known community, shined a spotlight on the wonder of the phrase, "*Am Yisrael Chai,*" the Jewish people live. ■

JPros provides learning opportunities to Jewish professionals

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

Jewish Professionals of Greater Ann Arbor (JPros), is an organization created to provide services, growth opportunities, and a professional community for those who work within Jewish Ann Arbor. In this time of dwindling resources and diminished funding, the employees of the Jewish organizations of Washtenaw County must now work together more than ever to meet the needs of the Jewish community. JPros has the honor of providing professional development to the individuals who work for this community's agencies, synagogues, Hillels and schools that serve everyone in the community. The gatherings put together by JPros allow its members to collectively share in professional development and promote best practices, recognition, advocacy and networking throughout the Ann Arbor area.

The definition of a Jewish professional is not encumbered by the limits of specific types of organization. Anyone working for the Jewish community or one of its organizations is considered a part of this group, is welcomed by JPros to events and lectures, and is encouraged to be an active member in a community of their peers. More importantly, they should not be overlooked as minor contributors to our community, its sustainability, or its growth. As David Shtulman pointed out in his Shabbat message from early February, these Jewish community employees often make financial and career related sacrifices to provide their valuable professional services to a small community that needs them, as well as enhance our community through their professionalism. The existence of JPros in our community helps to give back to those that give so much to the Jews of Washtenaw County, by recognizing their need for a professional community, and providing the opportunity for partnerships between organizations which can not only make their work more successful, but also more beneficial to the community at large.

The Washtenaw County chapter of JPros is just one of 15 groups in North America, with two more being formed. The local JPros group is led by a steering committee of representatives from across the spectrum of Jewish organizations. This steering committee plans the calendar of events, promotes the group internally, and distributes information throughout the group on best practices and news. So far this year JPros has hosted events to discuss the difficulties and practices of staying professionally motivated beyond the high holidays, and has shared the innovative programs that many of our organizations have implemented this year.

As part of an effort to bring the Jewish professionals of our community into a welcoming group of their peers, JPros is planning two monthly events for the remainder of the year. The breakfast lecture/meeting series of events is continuing, to be hosted on the second Tuesday of every month. Event details for each meeting are sent to the members by the committee. JPros has also begun a monthly social night, to be held on the third Wednesday of every month, rotating to different bar/restaurants in Ann Arbor, and giving the professionals an opportunity to mingle with their peers, and to discuss collaborations, best practices, future events, Jewish community concerns etc, in a non-structured setting. All Jewish professionals are not only welcome to attend all of these events, but strongly encouraged to do so.

For more information or to join JPros, contact mira@jfsannarbor.org. ■

Camp Raanana to hold early bird registration

Shoshana Jackson, special to the WJN

Camp Raanana will be holding its annual early bird registration event on Sunday, March 18 from 12:30–2 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. At the registration event, families will be able to find out more about Camp Raanana and sign up before the March 30 early bird registration deadline. A free pizza lunch will be provided and there will also be fun activities for new and returning campers. In addition,

all campers that attend the event will receive a coupon for an extra $10 off their camp fees.

Newly relocated to a picturesque, sandy beachfront on Cedar Lake in Chelsea, Camp Raanana is the perfect place for campers entering grades K–8 to explore new interests, gain self-confidence, build Jewish identity, and have fun outside. The camp offers nine one-week sessions each summer and provides swim lessons, arts & crafts, music, Judaics, nature exploration, free swim, Shabbat celebrations including challah-baking, and weekly special events or all-camp field trips.

This year's all-camp field trips will include Splash Universe, Howell Nature Center, Romulus Athletic Center, Northfork Farms, and Imagination Station. Camp Raanana will also be hosting the popular Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan for a visit to camp and a spectacular evening performance at the JCC on August 1. The annual Shabbat at the Lake celebration will be held the evening of August 17 and will feature performances by all the camper groups.

From entering Kindergarten to graduating high school, Camp Raanana has a program for everyone! At Camp Raanana, campers entering grades K–2 enjoy the benefits of experienced and nurturing counselors and enriching activity sessions, including Red Cross swim lessons three times a week at no extra cost. Campers entering grades 3–5 participate in Camp Raanana's swim lessons and other activity offerings, and also choose an enriching specialty each week. This year's specialties options include Spy School, Boating, Digital Photography, Martial Arts, Drama, Clay Creations, World of Sports, Edible Art, Dance, Silly Science, Camp Skills, Basket-weaving, and Chess. Campers entering grades 6–8 participate in Camp Raanana's Pioneer Adventure Program, featuring exciting field trips and fun mitzvah projects each week. Camp Raanana also offers a CIT program for entering 9th and 10th graders, while students entering 11th and 12th grades – or who will be starting college in the fall – may serve as Junior Counselors. Camp Raanana will meet the family's needs, from Kindergarten through 12th Grade.

continued on next page

Camp Gan Israel to host open house

David Alpert, special to the WJN

Americans rejoiced last month after the groundhog made his prediction of a shorter winter, but staff at Camp Gan Israel in Ann Arbor, has another reason to celebrate. Preparations for the upcoming camping summer season are now in full swing, with staff currently working to

differentiate this year's weekly schedule with exciting new activities.

According to camp director ShternieZweibel, a bevy of "innovative programs and activities are currently on the drawing board."

To provide parents with an opportunity to learn more about what's happening this year at camp, Zweibel will host an open house event on Sunday, March 18, 2:30 p.m.–4 p.m., at Jump City in Ann Arbor, an indoor inflatable playground. Zweibel will present an overview that will cover the salient features of camp this year, while kids enjoy a fun-filled Sunday afternoon on the play equipment.

At Camp Gan Israel, Jewish children can enjoy an exciting camping program of sports and physical activities, in a Jewish context. Camp Gan Israel sets itself apart with a focus on cultivating hidden talent by enabling children to explore a wide variety of out-of-the-ordinary activities, from music and dancing to yoga and art.

Zweibel will also field questions from parents during the event. "Parents are invited to join us at the Open House and discuss their questions about camp, as we look forward to another great summer at Camp Gan Israel," says Zweibel.

Jump City is located at 2825 Boardwalk. Admission is $4; children under age 4 are free. For more information, call 995-3276#5. ■

Raanana, continued from previous page

This year's camp season will run from June 25 to August 24. Camp Raanana's program day runs from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. – it is the only day-camp program in the Ann Arbor area to have continuous programming this late into the evening. Camp brochures are available at the JCC and at www.CampRaanana.com. The registration deadline is June 1, but families are encouraged to register in advance to reserve their space and take advantage of savings opportunities. Families that register by March 30 will receive the early bird rates, and those that register by May 1 will be entered in a raffle for a free week of camp and other prizes. Camp Raanana also provides need-based scholarship assistance; scholarship applications are due by March 1. ■

For more information about Camp Raanana, visit www.CampRaanana.com or contact camp director Shoshana Jackson at shoshanajackson@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

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A divided town, where the pursuit of bargains brings together Israelis and Palestinians

By Linda Gradstein

BARTA'A, West Bank (JTA)—In these days of frozen peace negotiations, most Israelis and Palestinians have little contact. Palestinians need a special permit to enter Israel, and Israelis need army permission to enter the parts of the West Bank controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

In fact, just a mile north of this small West Bank town, a large yellow sign reminds drivers that "it is illegal to hand over cars for repair to the Palestinian Authority or to enter Palestinian areas."

But in Barta'a, Israelis and Palestinians mix freely. The town is legally divided, with West Barta'a inside Israel and East Barta'a in the West Bank. But there's no physical barrier between the two sides, and East Barta'a has developed a thriving market of hundreds of small stores selling everything from coffee sets to sheets to food to special teddy bears for Valentines Day.

"They have a good selection, and the prices are much cheaper," said Sharon Ben Harosh, a 43-year-old Israeli Jew who frequently makes the four-hour trip from Eilat to buy textiles for his shop. "There's a feeling of authenticity here. I buy everything here—rugs, furniture, dishes, curtains," he said. "I really feel at home here."

Palestinian store owner Ali Hamarshi, 48, grins and nods his head. "I bring things from many countries—China, Turkey, Italy, the Philipines, Vietnam," Hamarshi said. "India and China make the best kitchen goods, and many Israelis come here to buy."

His words are echoed by Yusuf Zahar-Din, 52, who came to Barta'a from the Israeli Druze village of Usfiyya with his wife Hediye.

"We changed the tires on our car, bought some gifts and had a great meal of lamb," Zahar-Din said smiling. "The people here are so nice. I love coming here." He added that prices are 50-60 percent less than inside Israel.

But not everyone benefits equally from the throngs of Israelis driving into Barta'a, says Zidran Badran, the mayor of the Israeli section of Barta'a. "The commerce is all over there, not here," he said. "We just get all of the dust."

Prices are higher in the Israeli section of Barta'a because store owners there have to pay higher taxes.

The shops line a narrow twisty road, and there is no designated parking lot. Badran says an estimated 80 percent of the shoppers are Arab citizens of Israel and 20 percent are Jewish Israelis.

"Before I knew about this place, I was really afraid to come," said Ben Harosh. "Now that I know about it, I don't want to leave. I don't know anything about politics, but this is the way things should be."

Most of the citizens of Barta'a are from one large clan, the Kabaha clan. On the Israeli side, there are almost 4,000 residents; on the Palestinian side, about 6,000.

From 1948 to 1967, East Barta'a was part of Jordan, and families here were divided. In 1967, when Israel took over the West Bank, families were reunited; many families are mixed, with one spouse from Israeli Barta'a and the other from the Palestinian side.

Rafat Kabaha, the head of town schools on the Israeli side, says about one-third of the students come from the Palestinian side. If one parent is an Israeli citizen, the children can study in the local Israeli school even if they live on the Palestinian side.

Kabaha says 62 percent of the high school students receive a matriculation certificate, which enables them to attend university. That figure is almost double the overall rate of other Arab citizens of Israel.

"Both our teachers and our students live here in the village, and our teachers are very committed," Kabaha says.

Barta'a is easy to reach—it is just a few minutes away from a major Israeli highway. Badran hopes that Israelis will continue to come but that Israeli Barta'a will develop as well.

"I have a dream," he said. "I'd like to see people from all nations over the world coming here. In China they've already heard about Barta'a because we buy so many Chinese goods. We could even build a hotel here." ■

In Israel, economic concerns mount, but unclear which party will benefit

By Mati Wagner

JERUSALEM (JTA) – "It's the economy stupid" was how American political strategist James Carville once summed up the defining issue in U.S. presidential elections.

But in Israel, besieged by enemy nations and locked into an ongoing conflict with the Palestinians, security has traditionally trumped all other political agendas. Until now.

In part because of a sharp decrease in West Bank terrorism and the relative quiet in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, Israelis have begun to turn their attention from security concerns to economic ones. Some believe this may help Labor and Meretz, parties that have failed to garner wide support for their dovish positions on security matters but may have more appeal when it comes to socioeconomic issues.

"This is the first time since I began writing 23 years ago that there is a chance this election will not be about hawks and doves but about social justice and how the fiscal budget should be split up," said Daniel Ben-Simon, a former journalist and parliamentarian from the Labor Party.

His party head, Shelly Yachimovich, has been articulating a social democratic economic policy that aspires to promote more social justice and equality and less "piggish capitalism."

Demonstrations last summer that protested exorbitant housing prices, high costs for basic necessities and growing income inequality managed to mobilize an unprecedented number of Israelis. Called the J14 Movement (after the July 14 date it began), the protest drew more than 400,000 Israelis into the streets—more than the number who attended the 1982 rally organized by Peace Now to protest Israel's role in the Sabra-Shatilla massacre.

"The J14 movement was and is a crucial moment where the people in this country started to look within and think about themselves as individuals," said Daphni Leef, who sparked the protest through a Facebook campaign. "They rejected the concept, 'as long as you are alive don't complain.' "

The demonstrations continue to have an impact. It was largely due to an increased sensitivity to social justice that the Histradrut labor federation, Israel's largest workers' union with strong ties to the Labor Party, succeeded in launching a strike last week to champion the rights of outsourced, temporary or contracted workers. For years the workers have suffered from low wages, a lack of job security and no pension benefits. Unlike past strikes, there was wide public support for the Histadrut's battle for contracted workers.

PHOTO BY YOSSI ZAMIR / FLASH90

Hundreds of Israelis protesting against the country's soaring cost of living in front of the Knesset in Jerusalem on August 2, 2011

"We enjoyed a lot of backing—on Facebook, on the streets, in the news media," Histadrut spokeswoman Dafna Cohen said of the five-day work stoppage, which ended Sunday with contract workers receiving a minimum monthly wage and other benefits. "People who had their flights delayed, could not conduct transactions at the bank or suffered from the strike in other ways showed a lot of empathy and solidarity with us. It was heartwarming."

Still, a military conflagration—such as an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear facilities—would be an instant game-changer. A precedent exists in the run-up to the 2009 national elections when Meretz, aware that its dovish positions on security and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict were unpopular, pushed a social-democratic platform.

But then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert launched Operation Cast Lead in an effort to stop the firing of rockets and mortar shells from Hamas-controlled Gaza. The 22-day military operation pushed security issues to the forefront and rendered Meretz's socioeconomic platform irrelevant. Meretz ended up with just three Knesset seats, down from five.

Even if socioeconomic issues become a central issue in the upcoming elections, it is not clear that parties such as Labor or Meretz will be its beneficiaries. Lior Chorev, a political strategist from the centrist Kadima Party, predicted that the renewed interest in socioeconomic issues would not necessarily strengthen Labor and Meretz.

"Like Occupy Wall Street, this summer's protesters were naive in the sense that they did not offer any specific solutions," Chorev said. "They were just a bunch of people—many of them professionals—who do not want to change the social order, just make life a little better for themselves. Nobody wants to go back to socialism."

Also, despite all the criticism, the Israeli economy under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government appears remarkably healthy. Unemployment is below 6 percent, compared to slightly above 8 percent in the United States and 10 percent in the European Union. Israel's GDP grew 4.8 percent in 2011 and the Bank of Israel is predicting another 2.8 percent gain in 2012.

And the Netanyahu government has been responsive to public concern about the economy. Even before the protests, Netanyahu instituted reforms aimed at bringing down the cost of housing. The National Housing Committee Law, which was passed by the Knesset in August, will streamline the process of allocating and zoning land for housing and provide financial aid to families buying or renting homes.

Netanyahu also established a committee to consider ways of combating the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few dozen tycoons. And in the wake of the protests, the Trajtenberg Committee was established and has presented a number of suggestions to help the middle class, the centerpiece of which was free preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds.

The response has been so extensive that some are now concerned that a populist push on social issues might lead to the adoption of imprudent economic policies.

"There is a danger that the very positive awakening of the Israeli consumer and worker to the fact that they are being so exploited by a few oligarchs will be taken advantage of by the social lobby and other leftist groups to institute high taxes on the middle class—the most productive classes of society," said Daniel Doron, director of the Israel Center for Social and Economic Progress.

But Labor's Ben-Simon is optimistic.

"The right has adopted the left's idea of a two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Now the challenge is the economic question," he said.

"After moving too far in the direction of neoliberal capitalism, which has ignored the needs of the poor, we will hopefully adopt social democracy—not the socialism of the 1950s and 1960s, but a form of economic thinking that sustains a more just society." ■

Teens find a second home in Nahalal

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

During the recent February school break, six local 9th graders, representing five high schools and three congregations, embarked on a ten-day adventure in Israel. The participants in the third annual Partnership 2Gether (Partnership) Student Exchange with Moshav Nahalal spent their vacation living with host families, learning the history of Nahalal and the Jezreel Valley, experiencing Israeli high school, and visiting key sites in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Most importantly, they established close relationships with new friends and developed a bond with their "home in Israel."

Amit Azoulay, Adam Kahana, Seth Kronick, Naama Eshel, Tal Ben Barak and Isaac Shore outside the Hurva Synagogue in Jerusalem

Throughout the week, the Ann Arbor and Nahalal teens explored the moshav's fields and history, discussed the concerns of teens living in a country that continues to face external threats, experienced a moving visit to the Kotel (Western Wall), got a bird's eye view of Jerusalem during a walk on the walls of the old city, visited Independence Hall where Israel became a nation, and learned about what it means to be blind in "Dialogue in the Dark" at Holon Children's museum.

The group also had time for the simple pleasures of teen life. They shopped in markets both new and old, ate ice cream and pizza, and spent lots of quality time at the Machleva, a former dairy that serves as Nahalal's youth center. Together, the group planted trees at the Ann Arbor Park at Givat Ha'Shoalim (Fox Hill), a symbol of the partnership between the communities. A highlight of the week for many was the Kabbalat Shabbat service at Nigun Ha'Lev, a congregation based in Nahalal known for its energetic musical services and caring community.

The Ann Arbor teens had several experiences apart from their hosts, including visits to the English classes at two elementary schools where they played games and taught their new young friends to sing "The Victors." They had a chance to learn more about the Partnership region during visits to an eco-friendly olive farm, Tsippori archeological site, and Net@, a program funded, in part by Federation, in which Jewish and Arab teens learn computer and leadership skills.

The Israeli teens will have their return visit to Ann Arbor in October 2012, and the 2013 trip to Nahalal is tentatively scheduled for February 14–25. Current 8th graders interested in participating are encouraged to mark their family calendars now.

The Student Exchange is funded by the Federation's Partnership allocation and receives generous support from the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation. The Ann Arbor/Nahalal Partnership is an integral part of the Michigan/Central Galilee Partnership 2Gether program led by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. Cooperative programs are developed with communities in Michigan and those of Nazareth Illit, Migdal Ha'Emek and the Regional Council of Emek Yizrael (Jezreel Valley).

For more information about the 2012 Student Exchange, to see photos of the trip, or to find out about getting involved, check out the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor facebook page (www.facebook.com/jewishannarbor), visit www.jewishannarbor.org, or contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100. ■

Ayana Levit, Ofir, Claire Fishman, Amit Azoulay, Naama Eshel, Julie Barnett and Roni Bloch at the Kotel in Jerusalem

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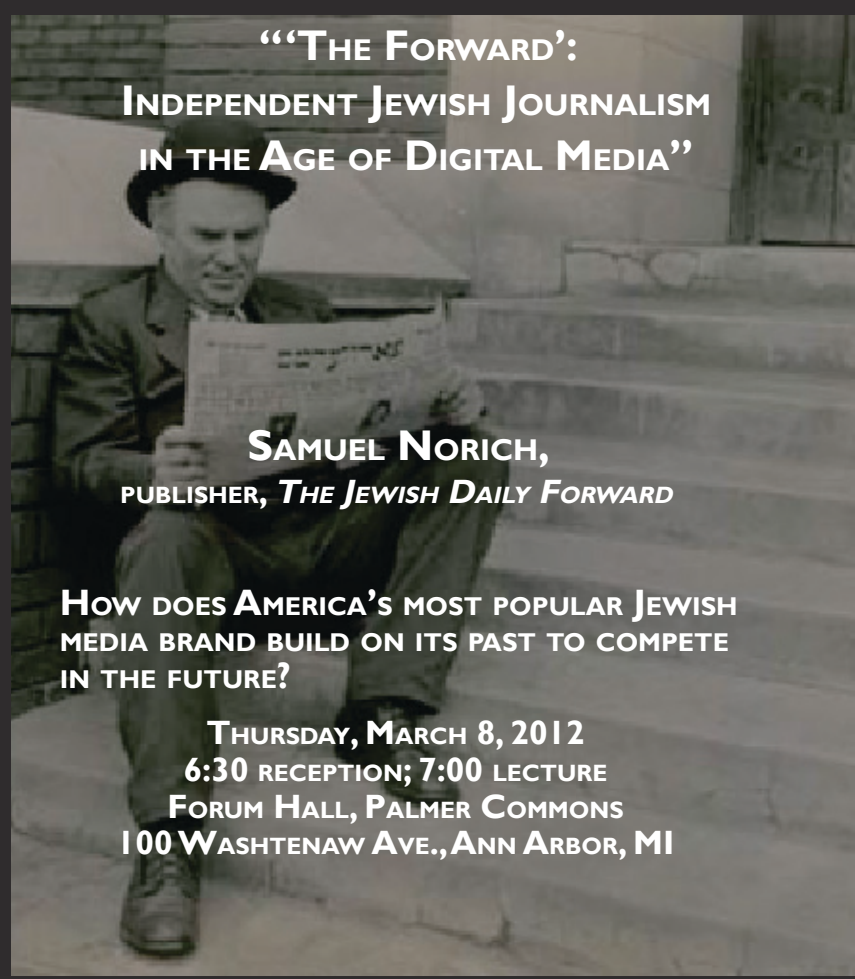

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In a Ukrainian Jewish orphanage, Tikva, economic downturn hits home

By Alex Weisler

ODESSA, Ukraine (JTA)—In a colorful room at the Tikva Children's Home here, 30 young boys stand in two straight lines and wait for the cue signaling that they are to start singing.

The children, students in a music class, are performing "Mind Your Manners" by the Philadelphia-based duo Chiddy Bang. It isn't just their singing voices they are developing. Their performance is being recorded on video to be sent to potential donors in the United States.

"Take a second look and you'll see, there is no one like me," they sing. Part music education and part fundraising, the dual-purpose performance underscores the depth of the financial crisis facing Tikva, an orphanage that serves impoverished and orphaned Jewish children from Ukraine, Moldova and southern Russia.

The orphanage is struggling to provide for its nearly 2,000 charges in the midst of a global financial downturn that has decimated its budget. In 2008, the organization had a $12 million budget, but with donations down 30 percent, the budget is now $7.3 million, according to CEO Refael Kruskal.

In 2008, the organization had a $12 million budget, but with donations down 30 percent, the budget is now $7.3 million, according to CEO Refael Kruskal.

"A few years ago I would pick up a phone and someone would give you $100,000, $200,000," Kruskal told JTA. "Now it's two or three meetings, and I have to get on a plane."

The challenges facing Tikva are a sign of the toll that the global economic downturn is having on Jewish institutions in already financially strapped nations.

The organization was founded in 1996 as a project of the Orthodox outreach organization Ohr Sameyach, which dispatched Israeli-born Rabbi Shlomo Baksht to help invigorate Jewish life in Odessa. The organization is now independent, an Ohr Sameyach representative told JTA, though Baksht, who is also Odessa's chief rabbi, remains vice president of Tikva's board and a member of its senior staff.

Tikva also operates ancillary programs, including an adult education program, a synagogue, a newspaper and a television program. These, too, had been run by Ohr Somayach.

Over the last three years, the orphanage has had to cut back on its services and offerings. Kruskal says the hard part has been doing that without sacrificing the organization's ability to provide for its young charges.

"We can't allow for children not to be saved," said Kruskal, who has been at Tikva for 13 years. "We can't allow for children to stay on the streets in an impossible situation. It would be easy to say, 'OK, let's make another cutback.' But now it would mean cutting into the flesh of our organization."

Tikva's programs for the elderly have had to be outsourced to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. A school about an hour outside of Odessa was closed down, with its students now commuting to the city. And the number of hot meals for children in the orphanages has been scaled back.

Tikva's orphanage directors say they appreciate the financial difficulties but try not to be distracted by them.

"My main goal is just to give them more love, more affection," said Chava Melamed, who has been the director of the Tikva infants' home, which serves children younger than 5, for four years. "When I came here I wanted to make this a home, not an orphanage."

From the outside, the facilities appear somewhat bleak (with the exception of the new girls' home built in 2006), occupying old buildings with gray facades in the Moldavanka neighborhood. But inside, the facilities are filled with life: toddlers babbling to each other as they build Lego castles, boys with yarmulkes participating in a dance class scored to Top 40 songs, girls lounging in a common room.

Taking a break from playing a video game in a brightly lit computer room that will soon become an athletics facility in the boys' home, Sasha Tokarev, 13, says the impact that Tikva has had on his life cannot be overstated. "For a lot of people, it's easier for their parents to have them come here," Tokarev, who has been at Tikva for seven years, said through a translator.

There is a strong religious component to Tikva's work. Kruskal says Tikva believes "that the best for these kids is that they should have a religious upbringing"—in these parts that means Orthodox. But Kruskal says he doesn't fight if the children begin to drift from religious observance.

While only Jewish children are accepted in the three Tikva homes, excess clothing is donated to Ukrainian state orphanages and a large group of local kids receive about one hot meal a month from Tikva, according to Kruskal. Approximately 400 of Tikva's graduates have moved to Israel, and about 70 are serving in the Israeli army. Tikva's Israel branch is a separate organization with an annual budget of about $1 million.

Most of Tikva's funding comes from foundations and private donors in the United States, United Kingdom and Israel, but Kruskal says he recently expanded outreach efforts to South Africa and Brazil, among other countries.

Tikva does have some big-name supporters. Owners of the apparel company Ecko underwrote all administrative costs for the charity's American fundraising operation for many years. Among the members of Tikva's board of directors are the Ukrainian-born Olympic figure skater Oksana Baiul and four-time Olympic gold medalist Lenny Krayzelburg.

Tikva also operates ancillary programs, including an adult education program, a synagogue, a newspaper and a television program.

Kruskal says he used to spend just one or two months of the year fundraising; now it consumes about half of his time. He's had some successes, as when he found a sponsor to fund Tikva's summer camp this year, which had been canceled the two previous seasons.

When speaking to donors around the world, Kruskal says he tries to remind them that they're only a few Jewish degrees removed from the situation of the kids in Tikva's care.

"I could have been a child in the home, and what would I have expected for somebody else to do for me?" he said.

Kruskal says the Jewish community has a chance to act faster than it did 60 years ago in the build-up to the Holocaust.

"Our job is to make sure history doesn't repeat itself," he said. "We should be effective faster than Jewry was then to guard the safety of these kids." ■

Seeking kin – German city of Wurzburg brings back its long-lost Jews

By Hillel Kuttler

BALTIMORE (JTA)—John Schwabacher was 12 years old when World War II ended.

He and his brothers, Michael and Thomas, emerged from hiding in their hometown of Wurzburg, Germany and joined their father in San Francisco. Their grandmother and countless other relatives were murdered in the Holocaust, and their mother and grandfather died just prior to being deported.

When Schwabacher would travel overseas on business for the semiconductor equipment company he founded, he often would detour to visit his hometown. His most recent visit was a decade ago, for the birthday party of a woman who helped save him and his brothers.

This April, Schwabacher, now 79 and retired, will bring his family back to the northern Bavarian city, including his brother Michael (Thomas is deceased). Wurzburg's mayor is inviting Jewish natives to return with their spouses as honored guests for a weeklong visit, airfare and lodging included. Approximately 25 couples from Israel, the United States, Argentina and England have registered, and the city is seeking others.

Wurzburg's outstretched hand is meaningful to Schwabacher, "an acknowledgement that the Jews accomplished a lot in Germany, and that [Germany is] overcoming the reluctance to admit that the Jews contributed a lot," he told JTA. "I'm going because it's an official recognition of the Jews."

Rotraud Reis, director of the city's Johana Stahl Center for Jewish History and Culture in Lower Franconia, called Wurzburg's sponsorship long overdue, especially with traveling difficult now for aged Holocaust survivors.

"It's important for them to see how the city tries to deal with this dark period of its history, and it's important that the city says, 'We know what happened in the Nazi period, that people left and were murdered,'" she said. "And it's an important gesture to have them here as guests of the city." Other German cities have hosted such visits over the years, but this is a first for Wurzburg.

The April 16-23 program will include an opening reception at the town hall; meetings with present-day residents at the Jewish community building; a Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony in the synagogue, which in 2006 was incorporated into the community building; ceremonies dedicating plaques, known in German as "stolpersteine" (stumbling stones), in the sidewalks near buildings where Jews resided before they were deported; and trips to cemeteries where visitors' relatives are buried.

New York's Fred Zeilberger, 82, will be attending to dedicate a stolperstein in memory of his grandmother, Lina Mimetz, who last lived in a nursing home on the site of the contemporary Jewish community building. After surviving the Jungferhof, Kaiserwald and Stutthof concentration camps, Zeilberger returned to Wurzburg and for two years lived in the nursing home with other survivors before leaving for America.

Fewer than 1,100 Jews now live in Wurzburg, nearly all recent arrivals from the former Soviet Union. Before World War II, approximately 8,000 Jews lived in Germany's lower Franconia region, about 2,000 of them in Wurzburg, Ries said.

Josef Schuster, who practices internal medicine in the city and whose parents were from Germany, explained that Mayor Georg Rosenthal revived earlier, aborted initiatives to host former Jewish residents. Rosenthal, who is not Jewish, appreciates Jewish history and is committed to its preservation, said Schuster, who serves as vice president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. "It's a special feeling the mayor has. It's in his heart to do this," he said. "There's a very good connection between him and the Jewish community."

A notable moment, he explained, occurred with January's publication of a book documenting each of the 1,455 Jewish tombstones used to construct a centuries-old building that was razed in 1987. The book represented the climax of a lengthy research project by three local and two Israeli historians. The tombstones, some dating to the 1300s, now are kept in the Jewish community building.

Schwabacher is looking forward to showing his grandson the home of the former's grandfather, Wilhelm Schwabacher, who owned several flour mills and saved people after World War I. "I want that [information] not to die with me," he said.

Schwabacher also mentioned a 2011 event that he said illustrates the city's seriousness about dealing with the Nazi horrors: a memorial for the deportees in which thousands of residents walked from the Jews' former homes to the railroad station.

"It was one of the most impressive things they did. That's one of the reasons I'm going," he said. "It was a lot more significant than paying for airline tickets. I don't excuse what happened. I was filled with fury, as you might expect. But I've lived a marvelous life in the United States."

Please send a message to seekingkin@jta.org if you are a Holocaust-era Wurzburg native who wishes to participate in this program or if you would like our help in searching for long-lost friends or family. Include the principal facts in a brief e-mail (up to one paragraph) and your contact information. ■

Op-Ed: Ethical consumption

By Ruth Messinger with Jordan Namerow

(Sh'ma)—E.F. Schumacher's 1973 classic Small is Beautiful introduced many of us to the concept of "enoughness"—the antidote to scarcity and the moderation of excess. It's a concept that I hope calibrates my consumption habits wherever I am—at a kiddush lunch in California, a coffee farm in Kenya, or a supermarket on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The fact is, I do not always meet my own standards of reduced consumption.

Several months ago, I felt the physical intensity of "enoughness" when I joined 6,000 leaders, mostly from faith-based organizations, in a week-long fast to show solidarity with the millions of people in developing countries who go to bed hungry every night and who are at risk of losing critical U.S. food aid. For two days, I drank only water and then for the next five, I also took in clear liquids. Lightheadedness and a low-grade headache followed me as I kept up with my regular routine of meetings, conference calls, and donor solicitations. Although I knew my fast would end and I would soon return to eating and drinking whatever I wanted, I spent much of the week reflecting on what hunger must feel like for someone whose life is defined by never having enough. More recently, I took the "food stamp challenge"—in which participants use the average food supplement benefit of $31.50 as their budget for food for one week.

What does Jewish tradition teach us about the role of "enoughness" in achieving kedusha—holiness—in the world? Rambam teaches that it is easy to be fooled into thinking that if we are consuming what is permissible, the quantity of our consumption does not matter. But according to Ramban, one who abuses the resources of the world by rationalizing that these resources are not explicitly forbidden is deemed "naval bereshut haTorah"—a "vile person within the delineations of the Torah."1 To prevent such overconsumption, Ramban notes that the Torah adds the general commandment of kedusha, "That we should be separated from excess…"2

It is all too easy to ignore the fact that we frequently consume too much. Food plays a dominant, sensory role in the lives of most Americans and certainly in the lives of American Jews. It is, in many ways, a map of our history. Meals, recipes, and the acts of eating and drinking express who we are, where we come from, and where we live. Food is accessible, enjoyable, and meaningful.

But when nearly 1 billion people around the world are malnourished, we need to adopt a food ethic that enables everyone to experience the sweetness of having enough; to experience food as a human right, not a luxury.

Ethical consumption is not only about being mindful of where we shop and what we ingest. It's also about reforming government policies that perpetuate a cycle of poverty and widen the gap between "too much" and "not enough," making ethical consumption nearly impossible for even the most conscientious among us.

For example, in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti, the U.S. government sent food aid to Haiti, mostly rice. In the short term, this rice helped feed thousands of earthquake survivors who had lost everything. But U.S. food aid had an unintended—and sometimes devastating—consequence on local farmers. The influx of free rice from abroad brought the price of Haitian rice so low that Haitian rice farmers could not compete in the global market. They couldn't earn an income from their crops and, tragically, could not purchase seeds for the next year's crop.

The U.S. Farm Bill, a piece of legislation that is re-authorized every five years and that dictates the direction of our global food policies, is up for revision in 2012. Since the United States is the largest donor of global food aid, we must ensure that our policies support local farmers, not undermine them.3 It's easy to forget that this imperative has deep roots in our religious tradition. In his legal code "Laws of Giving to the Poor," Maimonides, a 12th-century philosopher and Jewish legal scholar, argues that helping people achieve self-sufficiency—far more than ensuring that they have food on their table for just one night—is the highest form of tzedakah and an essential part of developing a responsible Jewish food ethic.4

Furthermore, two rabbis from the talmudic era offer a way to think about our own ethical consumption amid today's global food crisis. Rabbi Natan bar Abba wrote, "The world is dark for anyone who depends on the tables of others."5 By contrast, Rabbi Achai ben Josiah wrote, "When one eats of his own, his mind is at ease."6 These words tell a true and powerful story. For the most part, we have sated bellies, and it is therefore up to us to help ensure that people around the world can feast from their own harvests and put food on their own tables. ■

Ruth Messinger is president of the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), an international development organization that works to alleviate poverty and advance human rights for marginalized people in the developing world. Prior to joining AJWS in 1998, she spent twelve years on the New York City Council and served eight years as Manhattan's borough president.

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When a family's struggle goes viral

By Gabrielle Birkner

(*Forward*)—When Seth and Hindy Poupko Galena asked readers of their Eye on Ayelet blog to say the Asher Yatzar blessing, I looked it up and, for the first time in my life, recited it—not after going to the bathroom, as is traditional, but in front of my computer. I'm not particularly observant. I didn't know the Galenas' daughter, to whom the prayer was directed. But I was inspired.

Ayelet Yakira Galena had become something of an internet sensation. Each day, thousands of strangers checked in on the little girl, who suffered from a rare bone marrow disease. After one post described Ayelet's penchant for unwrapping plastic straws, dozens of strangers sent care packages containing straws to Ayelet's hospital room.

"As a Jewish mother, I check the blog/Facebook only for Ayelet stuff to hear about her steady good news. I worry almost like she were my own," one devotee wrote in the comments section of the blog. "Proud to be part of the Ayelet Nation," another wrote.

So when the Galenas, who are active in the Modern Orthodox community of Manhattan's Upper West Side, announced Ayelet's death, January 31, the news moved quickly through Jewish circles and set off a wave of mourning the world over. The reaction to the blog—and to the news its followers hoped never to hear—is emblematic of the ways that the Internet is redrawing boundaries between public and private, and upending traditional definitions of Jewish community.

"Ayelet created a community of people that felt bound not only to her, but also to each other," Hindy Poupko Galena told the Forward. "And once you experience that feeling of community, you crave that feeling. The collective joy, the collective fear. They wanted to be part of her story."

A January 27 post titled "You Can Be Addicted to a Certain Kind of Sadness" detailed the extent of Ayelet's fan base: About 14,000 people were visiting the site daily, with many of them coming back for updates three or four more times before the day was through.

Ultimately, I don't think it was sadness that had people hooked. It was hope, a sentiment that buoyed each entry, regardless of how grim the day. "The mantra is still slow and steady (hello extreme patience) so we are in no rush, and will keep Ayelet sedated on vent, so long as things with her lungs keep moving in the right direction," the Galenas wrote nine days before Ayelet's death.

Eye on Ayelet pulled back the veil on what it is like to be the parents of a critically ill child: the tests, the tubes, the fatigue, the need for comic relief, the celebration of small victories. ("She actually even peed a bit more today. Good news is visible from even the smallest drop of pee," Seth Galena wrote in late January.)

"[Seth] never hid anything that was hard to hear, but he told her story in a way that allowed people to hear it at the same time," said Poupko Galena, who is director of Israel and international affairs at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. "People saw Ayelet at her best and at her worst." Indeed, pictures of the little girl accompanied posts on most days. In early photos and, occasionally videos, she was dressed in frilly frocks, sitting upright and playing with toys; in later ones, she was lying in a hospital bed, her face swollen, her eyes closed, her head nearly bald, her limbs marked up from months of IVs and the drawing of blood.

Ayelet's death came 154 days after she received a bone marrow transplant at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. The infusion followed a nationwide search for a donor. Her family helped organize donor drives through the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, a Jewish group that helps match donors with patients in need of transplants. The effort—publicized on Ayelet's Facebook fan page, and by such celebrities as rapper 50 Cent and "Gossip Girl" star Leighton Meester—didn't yield an identical match for Ayelet, who suffered from a congenital disorder called dyskeratosis congenita. It did, however, locate near-perfect matches for 21 others in need of marrow or stem cells, a Gift of Life spokeswoman said.

Eye on Ayelet was launched in the run-up to the transplant, by Ayelet's Web-savvy father, Seth Galena, a founder and editor of the "kosher comedy" website Bang It Out. It was created to provide daily updates to family members and close friends. By the fall, though, the blog was making the rounds in Jewish circles in North America, Israel, England, South Africa and elsewhere.

Yes, it's easier to write a few sympathetic words, at convenient intervals, in the comments section of a blog than it is to sit with a family, day after day, in a hospital room and realize that your words are not up to the task of easing their pain. But the power of 'Ayelet Nation' wasn't in the typed words of a single person; it was in the pooled words—and prayers—of thousands of people who felt connected to a family they had never met.

In turn, the Galenas felt connected to the community inspired by their story. "Most people said, 'Oh, Seth and Hindy, you're so courageous and so brave,' but the only strength we had was to realize that we absolutely needed help," Seth Galena told the estimated 1,000 mourners who gathered to say goodbye to Ayelet. "And we reached out, through the blog, through Facebook, through synagogues on the West Side, and everyone in this room, their strength is what kept us going. You pumped positivity into what everyone said was a hopeless situation."

Many of those who attended the funeral, held Feb. 1 at the Jewish Center, an Orthodox synagogue in Manhattan, knew the family only through its online presence. "Looking around this room, one cannot help but get a sense of what it means to be part of Klal Yisrael ," Rabbi Yosie Levine, of the Jewish Center, said, using the Hebrew term that refers to Jewish peoplehood.

But not everyone is entirely comfortable with this online, open-source model of community.

Adrienne Asch, a bioethicist who is founding director of the Center for Ethics at Yeshiva University, said the growing number of illness-chronicling blogs is part of a general trend of sharing that which used to remain private. "Things that we kept private out of shame and fear, it's good that we're not keeping those things private," she said. "But along with that comes the question of why we're making things public and what should be made public," especially when the subject is too young to give consent.

"We have no idea how a toddler would feel about her story being distributed," Asch said. "We can't ask the millions of toddlers whose parents post photos of them on Facebook and blog about them and Tweet about all of their amusing or perplexing or painful or annoying interactions with their children." There's risk in creating a community of gawkers. "This is a soap opera, but it's real life," Asch said.

On the Jewish parenting website Kveller, mothers and fathers frequently write about their young children, as well as about once-taboo topics like miscarriage. "People can look at it as voyeuristic, but people are forming really strong relationships," said Deborah Kolben, the site's editor.

Eye on Ayelet, Kolben said, is a powerful example of the extended support network that online forums can foster. She said, "In Jewish tradition, you're not supposed to be alone when you grieve, so why should you be alone in the sickness?"

They weren't alone, and they aren't. "We read every single comment," Poupko Galena told the Forward. "We read every single posting, and we found tremendous comfort in the universe of friends and families and strangers standing with us both virtually and in reality. And it has continued to be comforting in these past few days since Ayelet's passing." ■

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Aaron Berofsky, Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra concertmaster

San Slomovitz, special to the WJN

Aaron Berofsky has been the Ann Arbor Symphony's concertmaster for the past nine seasons. He is also a professor of violin at the University of Michigan's School of Music and performs nationally and internationally in recitals and as a soloist and in chamber ensembles. He will be the A2SO's featured soloist in Camille Saint-Saëns' Violin Concerto No. 3 in B Minor at the Michigan Theater on March 17. Berofsky's wife, Kathryn Votapek is the A2SO's assistant concertmaster and she will serve as concertmaster for that concert.

I interviewed Berofsky for the WJN about eight years ago, soon after he and his family moved to Ann Arbor. I talked with him again recently about this upcoming concert, and also about his career and current musical interests. First though, a few brief comments about Berofsky from the A2SO's musical director, Arie Lipsky.

Lipsky: *I can say without hesitation that Aaron could be the concertmaster of the Vienna Philharmonic, the Berlin Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic, he is that good. His playing is not only perfect in intonation and technique, but there is some kind of elegance in the way he presents phrases, which is very, very unique.*

The last time he played a concerto with us, it was the Brahms, and he was masterful. The Saint-Saëns' is very difficult, one of the biggest violin concertos of the Romantic period, but on the other hand it's very French, and so you need to have this very elegant tone and approach. I can't think of anyone I'd rather have play it than Aaron. He has the technical command of the instrument, but the rapport he brings to a piece like that is very special.

He's quite a treasure for the orchestra. He leads by example and everybody has a lot of respect for him.

WJN: Is this your first time performing this concerto with a symphony?

Berofsky: No, I learned it in college and performed it with an orchestra for the first time when I was 17 or 18. I'd won a competition in the New York area and played it with a community orchestra there, and I loved this piece. I remember my teacher at that time, Glenn Dicterow, concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, came because it was close to his house. I was really touched that he came because obviously he was very busy. Unfortunately the orchestra was really enthusiastic, but really amateur (Laughter) but it was still a great experience.

I think of Saint-Saëns as a very facile composer, really talented, really fluent. His music is always well crafted and beautiful. Some people say he wrote too much, but there are some pieces of his that I think are as beautiful as just about anything out there, and this is one of them. It's so elegant and tasteful, yet passionate. Its second movement is just so… lovely; it's really kind of remarkable. It's very French, compared to most concertos, violin concertos are German or Russian, if you had to generalize, and this is kind of a standout French piece that has those qualities. I love to play it. It's also brilliantly orchestrated. It's really well put together.

WJN: I read that the concerto was premiered by Pablo de Sarasate, who was both a violin virtuoso and a composer. Do you think Sarasate, had very much input into the creation of the concerto?

Berofsky: It was dedicated to him. I don't know if they collaborated on it. I've never heard that they had, whereas some collaborations were really famous like Brahms and Joachim. Saint-Saëns always seems to compose incredibly well for violin. It's very, very hard, but it's violinistic, unlike some pieces, like the Beethoven concerto, which you could say sounds somewhat simple but doesn't fit nearly as well on the violin. I think Saint-Saëns, independent of Sarasate, just knew how to write really well for the violin.

WJN: How do you prepare for a work like this? You said you were seventeen, eighteen when you first learned it and performed it, so that was at least three, four, five years ago. (Laughter)

Berofsky: Six (Laughter)

WJN: So how do you get it back? When did you decide you'd be doing this concerto this season and when did you start relearning it?

Berofsky: Every time it comes up with Arie and the A2SO, he gives me a nice amount of warning. He says he's planning the next season and sometimes he'll give me free range, anything I want, and sometimes he'll be trying to have a theme and ask for something that will fit into the theme. There is always a general sense of enthusiasm that informs Arie's themes. I think that he recently had conducted this concerto with another violinist and fell in love with the piece because he, I believe, had not conducted it before. So I think he was leaning towards this but he gave me a little leeway. But when I suggested this he was really happy and relieved.

The difference between preparing for the Brahms concerto which I played with the A2SO, and which I had never before played with an orchestra, although I had studied it a lot, and preparing for this… you know there are some things that you learn so thoroughly that you feel like you have a basis of knowledge for them. Whereas there are some things you never really learned thoroughly, and so you almost have to start from scratch. I guess I feel that way about this piece, but of course it's no less difficult than it was…(Laughter) So I basically just dabble. Unlike the Brahms, where I set aside huge chunks of time and said, "every day I have to do this and that." This piece I just keep going to whenever I have a free moment, and I find it kind of a nice way. I hope that I'm doing it early enough, but I find it a nice way because I feel like it's like a luxury for me to be able to work on, because I really enjoy going back to it, exploring different options, making sure I don't get stuck doing what I did, just because I did it.

WJN: Arie said about you is that, as concertmaster, you lead by example. You don't turn around and tell people to do this or do that. Can you talk a little about that philosophy, that approach?

Aaron Berofsy

Berofsky: Sure. I guess that as you get older, things that you do instinctively become your philosophy. (Laughter) I guess if anybody had ever asked, I always would have said the same thing, but now I guess maybe it's more in the forefront that that is my philosophy. I'm not somebody who ever wants to become a dean… I mean I love conducting, but the power aspect, or the control aspect, does not appeal to me at all. And yet I didn't want to be lazy about the role because I do know how important it is that I'm clear, that I'm involved, because I know from when I used to play in a section, that if my concertmaster was not involved, I didn't really feel inspired to be involved either. So I do think that if you can lead by example—well—then that's the best way. I certainly will turn around and suggest something if I feel like there is no other way to communicate it. But I'd rather communicate it by them just feeling comfortable knowing that it's going to be this bowing or feeling comfortable knowing that I'll be trying to showing the mood just by being involved. Because I think then the section has a different kind of cohesiveness than if they've been ordered to do this and that.

WJN: Absorbing it more than just through the ears.

Berofsky: Right. I know stories, of course, about concertmasters being fantastic players but everybody behind them thinking they should be up there and hating them. This is such a friendly group that I'm not concerned about that. (Laughter) I feel that everybody here is very supportive of each other. Of course, Arie is so congenial, we all call him Arie, as opposed to Maestro. That's just the vibe of the orchestra. I think as long as people are doing really high quality work it's a good way to go. If it inspires lack of involvement or laziness, then that's a whole different story, but…

WJN: We haven't talked about your career in a few years. You're teaching at the University, you're still doing chamber music, solo work, traveling…where do you see yourself heading? Let me ask it another way. If I had asked you ten years ago, what you'd be doing now, would you have been right?

Berofsky: That's a good question. When I took this job at the University, I left the Chester String Quartet. Basically the move was leaving a small university—there was no tenure, the student body was tiny—and coming to this wonderful school where I was free of the bonds of the quartet. I would say I am doing what I would have hoped to do, which is just a wider variety of things; more concertos, I'm playing a lot of recitals on baroque violin with Ed Parmentier on harpsichord, we're looking forward to recording all the Corelli Sonatas, that's something that I had interest in but may not have found the time for. I'm also leading the baroque chamber orchestra at school, learning a wider variety of solo repertoire probably than I might have had time for. I still feel like string quartets are the greatest thing in the world and I'm really lucky I had that for fifteen years, but the ability to do all these different things is really great. Unless the quartet thing happens to work out, that's the only thing for which I can imagine sacrificing this wonderful balance I have. Maybe, I'm not sure.

I just played all the Beethoven Sonatas and recorded them, played them a lot and now I'm teaching a seminar focusing on them. That kind of thing is something I have the freedom to do, being at this school, and not being tied down to rehearsing three hours every day in that different format. I'd like to keep exploring the baroque thing, more and more in depth, and also keep exploring really, really new music more in depth. I feel like I have a lot of opportunities because the University has such incredible composers. And I have played music by most of them at one point or another, but there is so much further I could go; commissioning a new piece for myself, or exploring their music more.

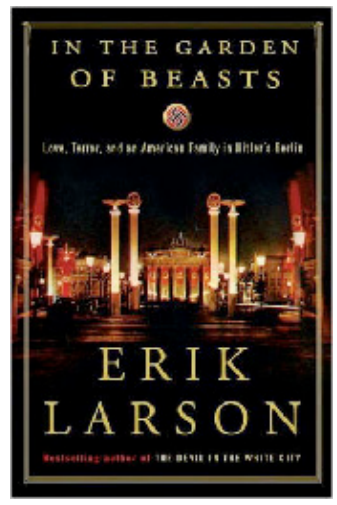
WJN: That's two pretty far poles, baroque music and the most current, hot off the presses music.

Berofsky: I know, and yet I find that there are more people than you might assume who do both because somehow something about them feels equally fresh or new, at least the way we are looking at baroque music these days. I think that there's some tie between the really new music and baroque music somehow. I know that I feel more free on stage playing with a harpsichord than I do in most other settings, because of the nature of the music and how free one can be with embellishment, ornaments, lack of ensemble requirements. (Laughter) Being in a quartet is a wonderful thing, an incredibly bonding, communal experience, but it's a different experience of freedom. ■

New book explores pre-war Germany

Rochel Urist, staff writer

Erik Larson's chronicles read like fiction. In his latest book, *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*, he writes of the American ambassador to Germany during Hitler's rise to power. The ambassador, William E. Dodd, former chair of the history department at the University of Chicago, reluctantly accepts the diplomatic assignment with the naïve idea that it might be akin to a sabbatical; he would find time, in Berlin, to finish his multi-volume history of the antebellum American South. His wife dutifully follows, but she would rather be back in Chicago. Their two grown children, along for the ride, are ripe for adventure. 28-year-old William Jr. is stoked for experience, though we hear little about him, just as hear almost nothing about Mrs. Dodd. Dodd's daughter, 24-year-old Martha, however, propels the story.



Martha is in the process of divorce when the family sets sail, and when they arrive she embarks on a series of romantic adventures. She sees herself as a liberated, unconventional woman, and she lives for the moment. The year is 1933. She travels within the highest echelons of power and prestige, and she beds the most attractive. Her father, meanwhile, charged with persuading the new German government to see reason, is stymied in his quest to persuade the Nazi regime to move forward peacefully. Neither Dodd nor his family had banked on finding their host country on the brink of madness. Diplomatic events—banquets, dinners—are rife with *heiling* and anti-Semitic jokes. We follow Dodd to meetings and obligatory social gatherings and feel his increasing alienation from his hosts and his task. As the Nazi reality unfolds, Dodd despairs of winning any diplomatic coups. Within two years, the family sails back home.

The book's title references Berlin's Tiergarten, literally, "the garden of beasts." It's an apt metaphor for that time and place. The Dodds set up residence in a grand old house, leased from Jewish owners who surprised their tenants by moving to the uppermost floor of the house. It was a failed ploy to stay alive. The house was on the Tiergarten, which is to Berlin what Central Park is to New York, or the Tuileries to Paris. Dodd's long walks in the Tiergarten offered refuge from frustrations—and, eventually, from the listening devices which the Nazis planted all through the residence.

Martha flirts and flits from one beau (often Aryan) to the next, while the world crumbles around them. The juxtaposition creates a curious figure-ground image. She plays at being a soap opera star in a ghoulish world. Larson never delves into the details of unfolding Nazi horrors. He says in the preface that he had no interest in writing yet another book on the Holocaust, and he presumes that readers know their history. Larson limits himself to his circumscribed subject: the life of the diplomat and his daughter. With meticulous care, he documents every dinner, rally, speech, letter, and diary entry. Larson paints portraits of such charming but sinister figures as Goebbels, and he offers a sketch of the surprisingly honorable first chief of the Gestapo, Rudolf Diels. Diels was one of Martha's many lovers, but Dodd may well have been unaware of that liaison. Caught up in his impossible mission and convinced that his grown children had sound judgement, the ambassador may have been ignorant of his daughter's sexual exploits. But Larson is an expert on them, and he provides documentation galore. All told, the readers' attention is captivated by this story in the way that motorists are caught looking at freak accidents on the road. The sight may be morbid but mesmerizing.

Dodd is a patriot and an intellectual, but both his academic and political ambitions are thwarted by his untenable position. He is mandated to keep lines of communication open between the U.S. and the leaders of the Third Reich, but he soon decides that the wisest course of action is to boycott Nazi events. Back home, the president's aides call Dodd a dud. In and around the White House, people are remarkably indifferent, if not downright hostile to Jews. They speak of the "Jewish problem" in Europe as a domestic problem, too; American Jews are disproportionately successful and high-ranking. American powerbrokers believe that this can be remedied and monitored with a system of quotas. In Germany, Dodd clings more faithfully to American ideals, but his powers are minimal, and boycotting Nazi events is hazardous. Martha, meanwhile, seems oblivious to the plight of non-Aryans for most of her stay in Berlin. She is a devoted daughter, but she is a bit of a twit, alternately insightful, shallow, sharp and callow. She recognizes the awful reality of fascism only when it stares her down.

Larson's prodigious research and narrative skill inform all his books. He takes historical events and approaches them from unique perspectives. He is fascinated by the tension between creative and destructive genius, and all his work looks at these competing forcing, good versus evil, as the central driving force of this tumultuous world. His book *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America*, is the story of the brave architects who created the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 while a serial killer used the fair's excitement to lure his victims. In *Thunderstruck*, set in Edwardian London and various stormy coasts, Larson tells of shipping companies competing to build the largest, fastest ocean liners. Against this background of ostentatious wealth, a murderer who seems "the kindest of men," performs the nearly perfect crime. *In Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History*, set in 1900, Larson pits human arrogance against pitiless nature in Galvaston, Texas, when 8,000 loves were lost in what remains the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

Larson is a history buff who has taken his passion to a new level. With his insatiable curiosity, exhaustive research, lyrical storytelling, and his determination to make history accessible, he has become a national treasure. ■

Gift themes: tea time or movie time

By Jamie Geller

NEW YORK (JTA)—So it's nearly Purim and the excitement in my house is rising every day. I'm not a great one to fuss with costumes, but my mind is bubbling over with ideas for mishloach manot, the Purim gift baskets.

It's more than mere "tradition" to give goodies to friends and family for Purim, which this year falls on the evening of March 7. The practice of giving food – specifically two different types—was mandated as a mitzvah at the suggestion of Queen Esther (you'll find it in the Megillah), and we're still obeying to this day. I like to go out of my way to give mishloach manot to people I just met or to new friends. It's a great opportunity to break the ice with new neighbors, too.

When it comes to your goodie basket, you can go from cheap and cheerful to expensive and exotic. The only things that limit you are your imagination and your wallet.

Now don't stress over this. Technically you only have to give to one person, not your whole town, but chances are you'll want to do more. I've been there, believe me.

Exhibit A—the easy way: The first year I was married, I borrowed (OK, stole) the easiest Purim idea from a friend. I sent cute little boxes filled with purple yummy stuff along with a card wishing everyone a "Grape Purim!"

Exhibit B—the hard way: When we moved into our new house three years ago, Purim fell on erev Shabbat. I made an individual challah roll, a quart of fresh chicken soup and added a small bottle of grape juice for 60 families—yes, 60—in our new neighborhood. That was a little intense and a lot crazy.

Overboard, yes, but I was on the right track because there is something special about giving a homemade treat. But I've made a solemn promise to myself (and to my husband, to keep our household peaceful) that if I go this route, I'll do it with a lot of planning and forethought. No last-minute panic.

At first I couldn't decide between two ideas, so I developed two EASY recipes. (Not like making 60 homemade challah rolls!) Again, I "borrowed" a few ideas from my friends, Tamar and Hadassah, who work with me on JoyofKosher.com, but I can't remember which was which.

Anyway, you're welcome to borrow these ideas from us, and we won't tell a soul.

Option 1: English Tea Time Shalach Manot

Homemade jam is so easy to make, so (literally) sweet, and a perfect way to use up those bits of frozen berries in your freezer. You can package homemade jam and some biscuits, crackers, scones or English muffins (you can buy all of these) and a box of tea. To that end, I present my recipe for Homemade Mixed Berry Jam.

Option 2: "Movie Night" theme is fun and family friendly

You get to satisfy all your cravings for Twizzlers, soda and popcorn. But not just any popcorn: We're talking my homemade, gourmet Maple Almond Popcorn. Don't worry—it's truly Quick & Kosher, and so easy you'll do it again and again.

I decided to go with Option 2, so I picked up some plastic movie-style popcorn tubs, and I'm rounding out the package with a can of soda tucked into a Coke cup with a lid (got 'em from the pizza store). And of course, I'll add a pack of Twizzlers.

To complete this mishloach manot package, I will create an "admit one" ticket of some sort with a poem or catchy line inviting people to the greatest movie now playing, "The Purim Story," and coming soon, "The Exodus from Egypt."

Jamie Geller in her kitchen

While you are making all of that to send out on Purim, be sure to allow yourself a taste for quality control. Don't you know that every good cook takes a taste before the goods leave the kitchen?

Homemade Mixed Berry Jam

8-10 servings

- 3 cups frozen mixed berries (raspberries and blueberries)
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup diced peeled granny smith apple
- 2 tablespoons water

1. In a large saucepan, combine all ingredients and bring to a boil over medium high heat. Reduce to a simmer and cook for 30 to 45 minutes or until thickened and berries are broken down. Cool completely. 2. Can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks or can be canned and stored for up to 6 months.

Maple Almond Popcorn

8 servings

- 6 cups popcorn
- 1 cup slivered almonds
- 1 cup maple syrup

1. Grease a large bowl with cooking spray. Add popcorn and almonds and stir to combine. Set aside.2. Line a large sheet pan with foil and grease with cooking spray.

3. In a medium heavy bottom saucepan over medium high heat, bring maple syrup to a boil. Boil until maple syrup reaches 300° on a candy thermometer. Immediately pour over popcorn and stir vigorously to coat. Quickly spread popcorn mixture onto prepared pan and let cool completely before breaking into pieces.

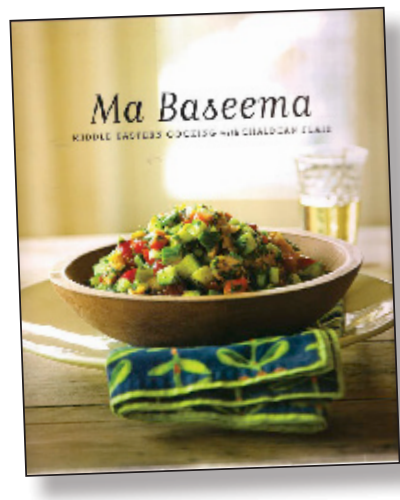
Jamie Geller is the author of the best-selling Quick & Kosher *cookbook series and creator of the Joy of Kosher with Jamie Geller magazine. She is the host of the popular* Quick & Kosher *cooking show online at youtube.com/joyofkosher and on-air on JLTV. Follow more of Geller's* Quick & Kosher *cooking adventures on Twitter @JoyofKosher and on facebook.com/joyofkosher.* ■

Ma Baseema offers Middle Eastern cuisine with a flair

Mary Bilyeu, staff writer

"How good it is!" This is what Ma Baseema, the title of a lovely Chaldean cookbook published by Huron River Press, translates to. It is the perfect phrase both for the food—which is representative of Middle Eastern cooking, but with its own unique flair—and for the book itself, with enticing recipes representing the best of a culture that is likely still unfamiliar to many readers despite its legendary history.

Chaldeans are Iraqi Christians, and their culinary traditions are thousands of years old. The Mesopotamians were the first to write down instructions for food preparation, and historians can trace tablets found in modern-day Iraq—considered to be the first "cookbooks"—to the second millennium B.C.E. Very little has changed with regard to the cuisine, as these ancient tablets offer recipes for spiced meats and vegetables, sauces, breads, and also sweets, just as you'll find in *Ma Baseema*. These dishes have withstood the test of time.



Hospitality is valued highly by Chaldeans, who ask people to join them at the table by saying "*Fathalo*"— "Do me the honor." Whether guests are invited or merely drop in, they are always welcomed heartily and offered something to eat… a little nosh, as it were. This generosity of spirit is evident in the cookbook, as many of the beautiful pictures offer plates and platters of food set upon the dining table, temptingly ready to be served. The colors and textures of the dishes are rich, vivid and inviting.

Food is integral to Chaldean religious observations and holidays, though not to the degree of ritual found in Judaism. During Lent, for example, when meat is not eaten on Fridays as a form of abstinence in spiritual preparation for Easter, special dishes are served which contain no animal products at all. On New Year's Day, it is traditional to serve Kibbee 'd Turshana (Sweet and Sour Kibbee), which "has special significance in its annual message of 'taking the good with the bad, the bitter (sour) with the sweet." This is clearly reminiscent of eating honey at Rosh Hashanah with hopes for a sweet year, and echoes the symbolism of serving round foods which represent the cycle—including the proverbial ups and downs—of life.

This cookbook, attributed to the Chaldean American Ladies of Charity (CALC), is not a collection of only one family's treasured recipes, but is rather the result of a seven-year labor of love dedicated to preserving history and culture through cooking. The largest Chaldean community outside of Iraq is located in the Detroit area; a competition was held among these local cooks, who prepared hundreds of food items for sampling by professional chefs. Each recipe presented in the book is the winner in its category and thus considered the very best and most representative example of a dish.

Most of *Ma Baseema's* recipes are quite easy to follow, and I was very happy to find explicit instructions and tips for preparation of the few dishes which require multiple steps and some effort to assemble. There are also very clear close-up photos to instruct in the rolling of grape leaves, so that even a novice cook should not feel intimidated. My friend Caren bought *Ma Baseema* and told me "it is one of (her) favorite cookbooks." She particularly raves about the Fattoush (Toasted Pita Salad), telling me that the recipe is "super easy ... and instead of rushing out to my fave Middle Eastern restaurant I can now satisfy my craving at home!"

Each of the numerous dishes I've prepared from *Ma Baseema* —for example, tender, fragrant Chicken Curry (which differs somewhat from Indian curries by virtue of the spice mixes); warm and comforting Tomato Spinach Lentil Soup; Iraqi Salad featuring chickpeas, beets, cucumbers, onions and just a pinch of mint to enhance the vinaigrette—has been simple to prepare and wonderfully flavorful. They've featured intriguing taste combinations that are at once familiar to anyone who's eaten Middle Eastern cuisine, yet still uniquely distinctive.

Many of these traditional Chaldean dishes would be lovely for Jewish holidays or for a Shabbat meal. The Burek —deep-fried egg rolls filled with a beef and onion mixture—were a wonderful treat to serve at Chanukkah. At Tu B'Shevat, the "New Year of the Trees," Chaldean recipes from *Ma Baseema* offered wonderful twists on tradition. Hameth Helu (Dried Fruit Stew) highlights foods featured at the holiday, while also offering the sweet and sour flavors Chaldeans favor for welcoming the new year. While some of the recipes aren't kosher, since they combine meat and milk products, many could easily be adapted with non-dairy items.

CALC is using 100% of the proceeds from *Ma Baseema* for the mitzvah of providing "help and hope to those in need." One of the group's most significant missions involves the welcoming and resettlement of war refugees, much as Jewish Family Services assists with immigration and integrating newcomers into the community. Far more than offering "charity," CALC gives tzedakah.

The Sugar Cookies, which are rich cardamom-scented shortbread treats, are absolutely stellar with a subtle hint of spice; given their triangular shape, they would be an ideal contribution to *mishloach manot* at Purim. The simple, fragrant Almond Cookies are a lovely treat to end the meal while continuing to celebrate the spring holidays.

Ma Baseema—how good it is, truly! ■

Hameth Helu (Dried Fruit Stew)

2 pounds beef, cut into cubes or julienne style
1/3 cup oil
8 cups water, divided
2 medium onions, diced
1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
2 teaspoons salt (or more as needed)
3 cups dried apricots
2 cups prunes
1 cup yellow raisins
1 cup sugar (or less according to taste)
1 cup date syrup or Aunt Jemima syrup (or less according to taste)
1 cup lemon juice
1/4 teaspoon red pepper
White rice to serve

In a 6-quart saucepan saute the meat in oil until it browns. Add 4 cups water and cook until meat is tender and water is absorbed. Add and saute the onions, tomato paste and salt. Pour in 4 cups of boiling water. Add in apricots and boil for 5 minutes. Then add in all the remaining ingredients and simmer on low heat for 30 minutes to allow the flavors to meld and apricots are tender and sauce is thickened.

Serve over hot rice. Tip: If too sweet, add 1/3 cup more lemon juice or reduce sugar and syrup.

Serves 6-8. Adapted from a recipe contributed by Monica Atchoo

Lozina ëd Loz (Almond Cookies)

1 egg white
1/3 cup sugar
1 teaspoon ground cardamom
1 tablespoon rose water
1 cup ground almonds

Preheat oven to 350°.

Beat the egg white until stiff peaks form. Add sugar and mix very well. Add cardamom and rose water. Add the ground almonds and mix with a wooden spon by hand until mixture is well blended.

Scoop out a teaspoon and form the cookies into small circles or triangles. (If needed, moisten your hands with rose water.)

Place the cookies on a tray covered with aluminum foil; do not grease. Bake for 20 minutes or until just very slightly colored. Remove carefully from tray after firm and cooled.

Tip: Do not allow the cookies to color or brown or the taste will change and cookies will be dry.

Contributed by Naila Shamoun

Shekar Bureghi (Sugar Cookies)

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar
1 cup oil or melted butter
1 teaspoon ground cardamon

Preheat oven to 350°.

Mix all the ingredients together with hands to form a smooth paste. Take small amount of dough, the size of a walnut and form into various shapes: triangles, rounded edges or crescents. Place them on a greased baking pan and bake for 20–25 minutes or until lightly brown.

Makes 2 dozen cookies. Contributed by Nadira Thweny.

Sem Sem Iya íd Tahin (Tahini Sesame Candy)

2 ½ pounds (10 cups) sesame seeds
1 cup light molasses
8 cups honey
½ cup sugar
½ cup tahini
1 tablespoon rose water
1 teaspoon ground cardamom
½ pound (about 2 cups) walnut pieces

Toast sesame seeds in 350° oven (6–8 minutes) or on the stovetop in a skillet (stirring often) until browned. Set aside.

Mix molasses, honey, and sugar in a saucepan on medium heat until sugar dissolves and mixture comes to a boil Add tahini, rose water, and cardamom, mix well. Add sesame seeds and walnuts to sugar and molasses mixture and blend well. Spread the mixture on a 12x17 inch baking sheet sprayed with non-stick spray. Use rolling pin to spread mixture. Let slightly cool, cut into diamond shapes, (using ruler to make clean cuts). Store in an airtight container. Freezes well.

60–70 pieces. Contributed by Rosemary Antone.

March 2012

Thursday 1

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring items of interest for discussion, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, Noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Sidney Warschausky Literary Group, facilitated by group members at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Lunchtime session of the book club focusing on third book of the year, *As a Driven Leaf,* by Milton Steinberg. For further information, contact Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. Noon.

Birthdays and Discussion: JCC Seniors: Birthday celebration for all with March birthdays, with lunch and birthday cake for family and friends at 12:30 p.m. Followed at 1 p.m. with a discussion led by a group of UM nursing students on the topic of living with and treatments for chronic pain.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 2

Rabbi's Lunch with the Torah: TBE. Each week, Rabbi Levy teaches an informal session about the Torah. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat and Tot and Sukkat Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot dinner at 6:00 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom at 6:30 p.m. Shira song session at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Family Service–Friday Night Live with High School Shir Chadash at 7:30 p.m.

Friday Night Lights: BIC. Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6 p.m. Dinner featuring dairy pasta bar at 7 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 3

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. In the Chapel. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin. 9 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Lunch: TBE Brotherhood. Kiddush lunch follows service. 10 a.m.

Learner's Service: AARH. Nine monthly sessions offered by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia. Each month, participants explore the historical, geographical and political traditions that are part of the Saturday morning service. March and April sessions will explore how to put it all together with a gigantic timeline of Jewish history and discussion of "who, when and what?" For information, phone 445-1910 or visit www.aarecon.org. 10 a.m.–noon at the JCC.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 4

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Series: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Purim Party Extravaganza: AARH. This "spiel" includes catered Middle Eastern meal, Megillah highlights, and a talent show. Participants encouraged to wear crazy costumes and feast on hamantashen. Meal is $8 in advance; $10 at the door. Ages 5 and under eat free. Reservations preferred. For information or to reserve, phone 445-1910 or email Jennifer Cohen at www.aarecon.org/contact-us. 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at the JCC.

Play Reading Workshop: JCC. Jewish play reading, led by UM Residential College drama professor and director of Ann Arbor's annual outdoor *Shakespeare in the Arb*, Kate Mendeloff. $35/JCC members; $45/non-members. RSVP to Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org. 7–9 p.m.

Basic Judaism: TBE. Meets in Room 9/10. 7:45–9 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 5

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Torah Trop: TBE. Ongoing weekly group with Cantor Annie Rose. Noon.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. Led by Cantor Annie Rose. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 6

"Money Matters–Jewish Business Ethics:" Jewish Learning Institute. Course covering Judaism's approach to practical economic dilemmas and monetary quandaries that are both personal and professional. Grounded in 3,000 years of tradition and practical experience, an ancient yet fresh spin on how we view ethics and money will be presented. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games, 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. Open computer time with a tutor available at 1 p.m. Call for reservations and more information. *Every Tuesday*.

Bible Literature and History Class: JCC Seniors. Washtenaw Community College class taught by Dr. Liz Fried. This semester's class will cover "Ezra in History and Tradition: Inquiry in to God's Justice." To register, call 971-0990. *Tuesdays.*

Yidish Tish (**Yiddish Conversational Group**): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 102: TBE. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 7

Purim Megillah Reading and Carnival: TBE. 5–7:30 p.m.

The Muppets Take Beth Israel: BIC. Mincha, Ma'ariv and Purim Megillah Reading. 6:15 p.m.

Gala Purim Celebration: Chabad. Join the big *Purim Shpil* party featuring a Megilliah reading, graggers, raffles, and refreshments including hamantashen. Come dressed in costume and celebrate with singing, dancing and enjoy an overall good time. 7:15 p.m.

Thursday 8

Purim Services: Chabad. Morning services at 7:30 a.m. with a Megillah reading at Chabad House. Then, during the day, send *Mishloach Manot* Purim baskets and enjoy a festive meal at 5:30 p.m. at the JCC, with another reading of the Megillah.

Purim Services: BIC. Shaharit and Purim Megillah reading followed by a light breakfast. 8 a.m.

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

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Medical Check and Presentation: JCC Seniors. A nurse from Care Response will monitor pressures and address questions at 12:30 p.m., followed at 1 p.m. by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal, who will lead a discussion of Jewish women of significance, in honor of International Women's Day.

Belin Lecture: UM Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. 22nd Annual Belin Lecture featuring Samuel Norich, publisher of *The Forward* presenting "Independent Journalism in the Age of Digital Media." UM Palmer Commons Forum Hall, 100 Washtenaw Avenue. Reception at 6:30 p.m. Presentation at 7 p.m.

Purim Masquerade Ball: EMU Hillel. Featuring DJ Graffiti at Sticks Bar in Ypsilanti for 18+ show. Hamantashen, pizza, and graggers, plus a raffle for an iPod nano. Prizes for best costume. Doors at 8 p.m. and music until 11 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

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Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 10

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Henry Gershowitz Memorial Shabbat Service: BIC Men's Club. 9:30 a.m.

Sixth Grade Shabbat Program: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Mini-Minyan: BIC. For K–2nd graders. 11 a.m.

Kehillat Shabbat: BIC. For 3rd–5th graders. 11 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Reading Discussion Group: BIC. Beth Israel Reads Discussion Group. 12:45 p.m.

Comedy Show: TBE Twenties and Thirties Group. TNT event at Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. 8 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

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Sunday 11

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Planning Session: BIC Men's Club. 9:30 a.m.

Purim Celebration: JCS. Includes costume parade, Purim Spiel, games, crafts, music and refreshments for purchase including pizza and hamentashen. At the JCC. 10:30-Noon.

Purim Celebration and Great Muppet Carnival: BIC. 10 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Play Reading Workshop: JCC. Jewish play reading, led by UM Residential College drama professor and director of Ann Arbor's annual outdoor *Shakespeare in the Arb*, Kate Mendeloff. $35/JCC members; $45/non-members. RSVP to Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org. 7–9 p.m.

Basic Judaism: TBE. Held in Room 9/10 from 7:45–9 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 12

School's Out Day: JCC Youth. On days when Hebrew Day School and/or Ann Arbor Public Schools are closed but the JCC is open, the JCC Youth Department offers full day programs featuring field trips or special activities. Programs are for JCC members ONLY in grades K-5. Middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Students should bring a nut free, meat free lunch and appropriate clothing for playing outside each day. $36/day for 8 a.m.–4 p.m.. ($32/additional siblings). PM care from 4–6 p.m. is $10/day. (No PM Care charge for Kids' Konnection or Kids' Club students enrolled that day of the week.) Contact Shoshana Jackson at shoshanajackson@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990 for information.

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Torah Trop: TBE. Ongoing weekly group with Cantor Rose. Noon.

Tuesday 13

"Money Matters–Jewish Business Ethics:" Jewish Learning Institute. Course covering Judaism's approach to practical economic dilemmas and monetary quandaries that are both personal and professional. Grounded in 3,000 years of tradition and practical experience, an ancient yet fresh spin on how we view ethics and money will be presented. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. Open computer time with a tutor available at 1 p.m. Call for reservations and more information. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Cantor Annie Rose leads an evening exploration of *As a Driven Leaf,* by Milton Steinberg. For information, contact cantorannie@gmail.com. 7:30–9 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 14

Lunch and Laugh: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch, snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Hebrew 102: TBE. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Bi-monthly group led by Roger Stutesman, open to all. For information, contact rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net.

Thursday 15

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring items of interest for discussion, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, Noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Sidney Warschausky Literary Group, facilitated by group members at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Art for a Cause: JCC Older Adults. Create and decorate Jewish ceremonial objects such as Kiddush cups, seder plates and matzoh covers for use in the JCC's Early Childhood Center classrooms. No artistic skills necessary and all materials are supplied. 1 p.m.

Bowling: EMU Hillel. Monthly event at Bel-Mark Lanes, 3530 Jackson Road. $5 for two games, shoe rental and pizza. 7 p.m.

Thirsty Third Thursday: BIC Men's Club. 7:30 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 16

School's Out Day: JCC Youth. On days when Hebrew Day School and/or Ann Arbor Public Schools are closed but the JCC is open, the JCC Youth Department offers full day programs featuring field trips or special activities. Programs are for JCC members ONLY in grades K-5. Middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Students should bring a nut free, meat free lunch and appropriate clothing for playing outside each day. $36/day for 8 a.m.–4 p.m.. ($32/additional siblings). PM care from 4–6 p.m. is $10/day. (No PM Care charge for Kids' Konnection or Kids' Club students enrolled that day of the week.) Contact Shoshana Jackson at shoshanajackson@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990 for information.

Rabbi's Lunch with the Torah: TBE. Each week, Rabbi Levy teaches an informal session about the Torah. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information. 1:30 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat and Tot and Sukkat Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot dinner at 6:00 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom at 6:30 p.m. Shira song session at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service with Kol Halev at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 17

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin. 9 a.m.

Brisket Bake-Off: TBE Sisterhood. 2 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 18

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, plus an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Beth Israel Café: BIC Women's League. 9:30 a.m.

Taste of Mussar: BIC. 10 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Camp Raanana Early Registration: JCC. Pizza party, chance to meet Raanana staff and to spend time with friends. Early Bird registration discount before March 30, plus discount coupon for attendees. For information or to RSVP, contact Shoshana Jackson at shoshanajackson@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990 or visit www.campraanana.org. 12:30–2 p.m.

"Prostate Screening–Is It Worth It?" BIC Men's Club. 5:30 p.m.

The Social Lives of Jewish Numbers: UM Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Reception at 6:30 p.m. Presentation by Theodore Porter, of UCLA, on "The Social World of Statistics" at 7 p.m. Mitchell Hart, of the University of Florida, will present "'Jewish Crime' by the Numbers, or Putting the 'Social' in Jewish Social Science" at 8:15 p.m. UM Rackham Graduate School, East Conference Room, 915 East Washington Street. 7–9:30 p.m.

Basic Judaism: TBE. In Room 9/10. 7:45–9 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

50TH

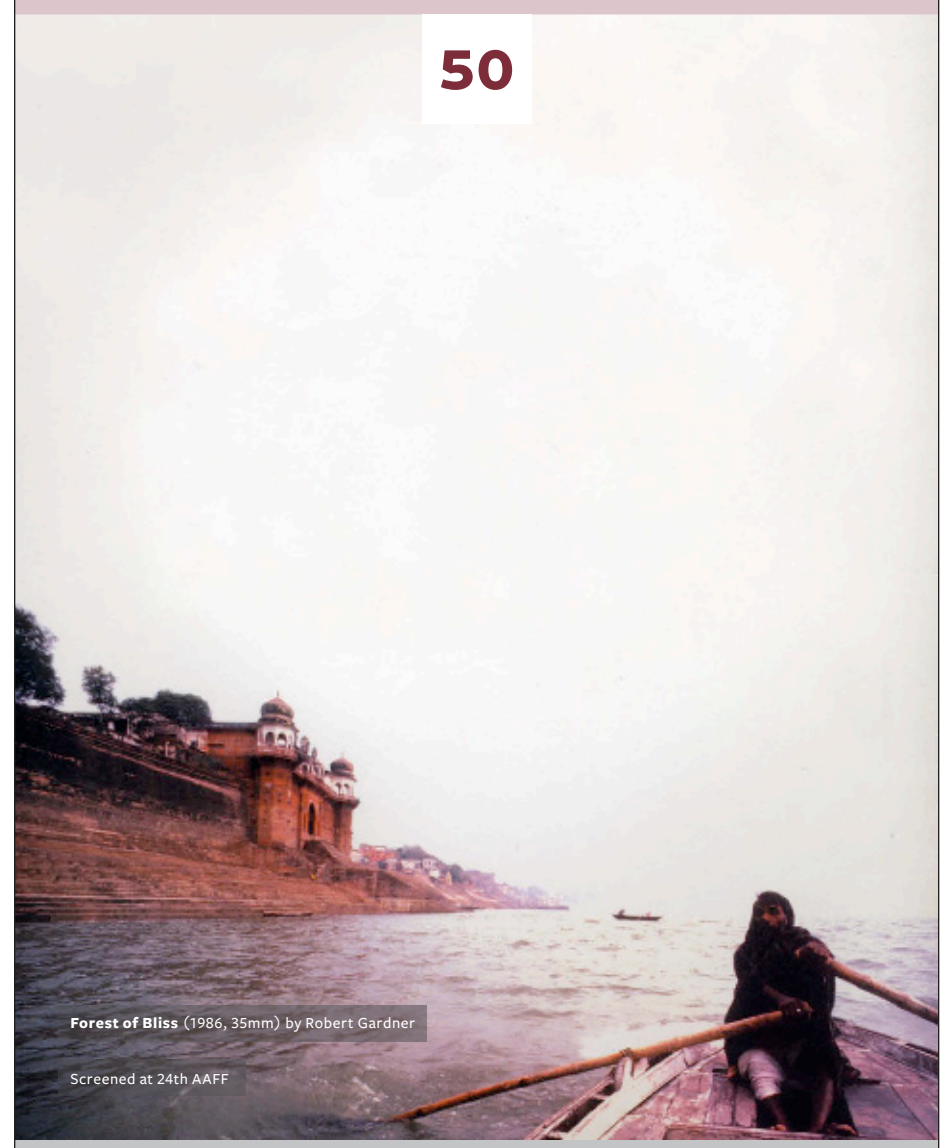
ANN ARBOR

FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 27 — APRIL 1

2012

50



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Calendar

Monday 19

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Torah Trop: TBE. Weekly group with Cantor Rose. Noon.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. Led by Cantor Annie Rose. 7–8:30 p.m.

Movie Night: EMU Hillel. Popcorn and soda provided.7 p.m.

Tuesday 20

"Money Matters–Jewish Business Ethics:" Jewish Learning Institute. Course covering Judaism's approach to practical economic dilemmas and monetary quandaries that are both personal and professional. Grounded in 3,000 years of tradition and practical experience, an ancient yet fresh spin on how we view ethics and money will be presented. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. Open computer time with a tutor available at 1 p.m. Call for reservations and more information. *Every Tuesday.*

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Presentation: UM Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Haviva Pedaya, of Ben Gurion University, will present "Walking Through Trauma/Rituals of Exile and Repair: Jewish Mysticism, History, and the Poetic Imagination." 202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022. 4 p.m.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 21

Lunch and Laugh: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Movie Wednesday: TBE. Showing of *The Brothers Warner,* followed by optional discussion. In the Adult Lounge from 1–3 p.m.

Hebrew 102: TBE. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Thursday 22

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring items of interest for discussion, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, Noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Sidney Warschausky Literary Group, facilitated by group members at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: UM Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Lenore Weitzman, of George Mason University, will present "Women of the Jewish Resistance in the Holocaust: The Underground Army of Kashariyot." 202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022. Noon.

Senior Lifestyle and Injury Prevention: JCC Seniors. Joyce Kessler, Injury Prevention Coordinator at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, will conduct the third of a series of four sessions. This month's session, which will concentrate on Driving Safety, is of importance to all older adults who want some suggestions about how to continue to drive safely. 1 p.m.

Celebrity Cooking Class: JCC. Lori Shepard of *Simply Scrumptious Catering* will lead a class featuring a romantic dinner for two, with wine included. $25/person. RSVP to Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 23

Rabbi's Lunch with the Torah: TBE. Each week, Rabbi Levy teaches an informal session about the Torah. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information. 1:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv Service: BIC. Led by Hazzan Henry Rosenblum.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat and Tot and Sukkat Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot dinner at 6:00 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom at 6:30 p.m. Shira song session at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Social Action Shabbat Service: Anniversary and Birthday Celebration at 7:30 p.m.

Israeli Style Shabbat Dinner: EMU Hillel. Including Kabbalat services and a special Israeli dinner. Student led and prepared. 6 p.m.

Friday Night Diner: BIC. 7 p.m.

"Synagogue Music as We Know It: How It All Began:" BIC. Presented by Hazzan Henry Rosenblum. 8:15 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 24

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Rosenberg Scholar in Residence Weekend: BIC. "Masoretic Midrash: Were They Trying to Tell Us Something Hidden in the Text?" presented by Hazzan Henry Rosenblum. 12:45 p.m.

Israeli Film and Dinner: JCC. Featuring the film, *Aviva Ahuvat (Aviva, My Love).* $10/JCC members; $12/non-members. For information or to RSVP, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedlan@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and movie at 7 p.m.

Mincha: BIC. 6:45 p.m.

Scholar in Residence Reception and Presentation: BIC. Reception with Hazan Henry Rosenblum at 7:15 p.m., followed by his presentation on "Shlomo Carlebach: The Man and His Music" at 7:45 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 25

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, plus an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Bookstock Drop-Off: JCC. Stop by the JCC with used books, audiobooks, records, videos, CDs and DVDs. Monies raised through the Bookstock sale will help fund literacy projects throughout the Metro Detroit area. For information, to volunteer, or to schedule a pick-up of a large donation, contact Rebekah Gamble at rebekahgamble@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Staff Appreciation Lunch: BIC BIRS. Noon.

Sofer on Site: TBE. "Year of the Torah" event. Rabbi Salazar's third and final residency at TBE. 6–8 p.m.

Basic Judaism: TBE. In Room 9/10. 7:45–9 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 26

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Sofer on Site: TBE. "Year of the Torah" all-day event.

Beit Café Adult Education Night: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Tuesday 27

Sofer on Site: TBE. "Year of the Torah" all-day event.

"Money Matters–Jewish Business Ethics:" Jewish Learning Institute. Course covering Judaism's approach to practical economic dilemmas and monetary quandaries that are both personal and professional. Grounded in 3,000 years of tradition and practical experience, an ancient yet fresh spin on how we view ethics and money will be presented. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. Open computer time with a tutor available at 1 p.m. Call for reservations and more information. *Every Tuesday.*

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Gardening Club Series: JCC. Monthly series with speakers, workshops, plant exchanges and garden tours. This month's speaker will discuss preparing vegetable and flower gardens for spring. $20/JCC members for three-class series. $30/non-members for three-class series. RSVP to Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7 p.m.

Passover Desserts: Jewish Women's Circle. Desserts demonstrated by Lori Shepard of *Simply Scrumptious Catering*. $10 donation requested. Location to be determined. For information, contact esther@jewmich.com. 7 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 28

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Afternoon Delights Concert: JCC. Featuring Andrew Pelletier, Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Principal Horn player. $8/ tickets at the JCC door or from AASO. For information, contact Merrill Poliner at Merrill@jfsannarbor.org or phone 971-0990. Refreshments at 1 p.m. Concert at 1:30 p.m.

Presentation: UM Frankel Center. Author of the novel *Aqud*, Albert Swissa, will present "Bound Together: Ishmael as the Ever-Present Absence in Isaac's Binding." Room 3222 Angell Hall at the UM. Sponsored by the UM departments of Comparative Literature, Women's Studies and Judaic Studies. 3:30 p.m.

Hebrew 102: TBE. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Bi-monthly group includes learning and lively discussion. Led by Roger Stutesman. For information, contact rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net. 7:30–9 p.m.

Thursday 29

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

Symposium: UM Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. "Jews and Politics." UM Michigan League, Koessler Room, 911 North University. 9 a.m.–6:45 p.m.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring items of interest for discussion, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, Noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Sidney Warschausky Literary Group, facilitated by group members at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Musical Performance: JCC Older Adults. A local musician will perform for the group. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 30

Rabbi's Lunch with the Torah: TBE. Each week, Rabbi Levy teaches an informal session about the Torah. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat and Tot and Sukkat Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot dinner at 6:00 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom at 6:30 p.m. Shira song session at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Traditional Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 31

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Monthly Bridge: TBE Renaissance Group. 7 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Sukkat Shalom service at 6:30 p.m. for "tot grads," preceded by dinner. Shira at 6:30 p.m. Oneg for Tot and Sukkat Shalom families at 7 p.m. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 p.m. at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Pizza nosh for the kids at 6:00 p.m. Childcare provided during the service. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 975-6527, email mamacohen@comcast.net, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Learners' Service held first or second Saturday each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Discussion-based format with changing topics, focusing on historical, geographical, and political traditions of different parts of traditional service each month. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study with Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

March 2	**6:09 p.m.**
March 9	**6:17 p.m.**
March 16	**7:25 p.m.**
March 23	**7:33 p.m.**
March 30	**7:41 p.m.**

Harvard needs some schooling , from page 8

was 650,000; it was outnumbered at least 40 to 1 by the surrounding Arab states. In comparison to the well-armed Arab armies- including the British-led Arab Legion-the Jews initially possessed no aircraft or tanks and suffered from shortages of artillery, small arms and ammunition. The textbook has been updated, but as a new book—*Saudi Arabia and the Global Islamic Terrorist Network*—documents, its fundamental flaws remain.

The outreach center's current director, Paul Beran, is an activist in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. The center's recommended readings favor anti-Zionist writings, including works by the late Edward Said, a Palestinian polemicist, and the former Israeli professor Pappe, the driving force behind academic boycotts of Israel. The center also recommends the propaganda film *Occupation 101*, which features notorious defamers of Israel like Noam Chomsky and Richard Falk. Serious scholarship is abandoned to dumbed-down banal fictional works that recycle the theme of alleged Palestinian victimization.

The people who should be the most concerned with the degradation of Middle Eastern scholarship are parents, taxpayers and those associated with universities that tolerate and abet such propaganda. After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks by al Qaeda, a broad consensus formed that the United States needed to understand the Middle East better, particularly to answer the question, "Why do they hate us?"

With the prominent role of Saudi and other Gulf Arabs in funding Middle Eastern studies, and the anti-Zionist ideology of many academics, state and local officials must assume responsibility for protecting their students and the field of Middle East studies itself from irresponsible university faculty and administrators. Parents and taxpayers must be vigilant and urge school officials to scrutinize educational material provided from universities like Harvard that have compromised their standards of scholarship. ■

The writer is a senior researcher for the 65,000-member, Boston-based Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA). Any opinions expressed above are solely his own.

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The Jewish connection of *Downton Abbey*

By Helen Chernikoff

NEW YORK (N.Y. Jewish Week)—Today the British noble with possible Jewish background is Cora Grantham, lady of the manor on the blockbuster PBS import *Downton Abbey.* We latter-day peasants lust so much for a connection to our betters that we don't even care if they're fictional. The hope for such *yichus* only intensified after the show announced that Shirley MacLaine would play Cora's mother, Martha Levinson, in the next season.

A period drama set in the years before and after World War I, *Downton Abbey* follows the doings of the noble family and their servants on an impossibly gorgeous estate. At the time, most British Jews were still sweating it out in urban immigrant neighborhoods like London's East End. Yet the show's media packet describes Cora's father as "Isidore Levinson, a Cincinnati dry goods millionaire." Sounds promising!

A Jewish Downton would not surprise Jessica Elgot, a fan of the show who works as a reporter at *The Jewish Chronicle* in London. British Jews apparently are well accustomed to this kind of thing.

"On the surface of it, you wouldn't expect it, but there's kind of a tradition of this," Elgot said. "[Prime Minister] David Cameron has some Jewish heritage. It always seems to pop up in places you don't expect."

Soccer star David Beckham, too, who has been photographed in a *kipa*. Seems he comes by his kabbalah thread honestly.

Sadly though for the social climbers, all historical evidence indicates it's highly unlikely that anyone like the U.S.-born Lady Grantham also would have been Jewish. Baron Julian Fellowes, the show's creator, has evaded repeated requests to comment, but a number of scholars feel duty-bound to let Jewish *Downton* fans down gently.

"I cannot offhand think of any Cincinnati Jew who actually married into European royalty," said Brandeis professor Jonathan Sarna, who probably would be in the best position to know as he wrote a book titled *Cincinnati Jews*. "One of the Fleischmann girls of pow-

(left) Elizabeth McGovern plays Cora, Countess of Grantham; (right) Oscar-winning actress Shirley MacLaine, who will star in the British television series *Downton Abbey* next season

dered yeast fame married Christian R. Holmes, but that is not the same thing."

Hardly. Holmes was a mere doctor. Of course, Jewish esteem for the medical profession is well known, but the Victorian-era American heiresses who set their cap for a European nobleman would have sniffed at the professions.

There were many such spirited young ladies, said Carol Wallace Hamlin, co-author of *To Marry an English Lord*, a book about how British lineage and American wealth found each other back in the decades after the Civil War. The nobles needed money, and the young women wanted to be princesses, or as close as they could get.

Fellowes told the United Kingdom's *Daily Telegraph* that Hamlin's book inspired the show. It also provides the most solid evidence that as daughter of Izzy, the schmatte king of Cincinnati, Cora is probably an anachronism.

Hamlin said she doesn't think any of the American heiresses she studied were Jewish, or had Jewish ancestry, and she studied 100 of them. She also said that it would have been an easy matter to pass.

"As for covering up Jewish heritage, I think that was probably pretty simple in the early 19th century," she said. "You change your name, you start going to church."

But then Isidore would have had to become Ian, and he didn't.

Most speculate that the model for Isidore was Levi Ziegler Leiter, who co-founded the Marshall Field & Company retail empire. His daughter Mary was one of those who married an English lord: George Curzon, 1st Marquess of Kedleston and the Viceroy of India.

But according to the definitive history on Mary, written by someone who had access to the family papers, the Leiters were Swiss Mennonites with a penchant for biblical names, Hamlin said.

Of course, many British and German Jews married into upper-class families within their countries.

"This wasn't necessarily considered an act of desperation, though it provoked considerable comment and upper-class anti-Semitism," said Alan Lessoff, editor of the *Journal of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era*. But it's unlikely that an American Jewish woman could have done the same, he said.

Indeed, Sarna says that as late as World War I, Cincinnati's intermarriage rate was only 4.5 percent.

In the end, only the Baron can tell his audience whether he kind of goofed on Cora's backstory, or whether he knows something the scholars don't. At least for now, in the best aristocratic fashion, he's maintaining a lofty silence. ■

Op-Ed: Security is everyone's responsibility

By Elise Jarvis

NEW YORK (JTA)—The recent attacks against Israeli diplomats abroad, which are suspected to have been carried out by Iran or its proxies, and the recent series of high-profile anti-Semitic incidents in the United States have raised new concerns about the safety and security of American Jewish communities.

The sad reality is that we are a potential target of terrorists and haters. But this does not mean that we need to change our level of religious involvement or activities. It is possible to make our institutions safer and more secure while still maintaining a welcoming approach for our community, friends and neighbors.

As a leader in providing community guidance on institutional security, the Anti-Defamation League has worked closely over the years with local federations, synagogues, schools and law enforcement in an effort to encourage them to take a holistic approach to security awareness.

Here is some practical advice on how to help develop and execute a comprehensive security plan:

- Security, first and foremost, is about having a heightened awareness of your surroundings. Security should not only be the responsibility of an executive director, a religious school principal, a camp director or a rabbi. All staff and leadership at Jewish communal organizations should have regular training on institutional security.
- Everyone who uses a Jewish facility should ask questions about security, should know what to do in an emergency, and should observe and report things or people that seem odd or out of place. This includes paying attention to details—if you see someone acting strangely, note their physical appearance and what they are wearing. If it is a vehicle that seems out of place, note the type, the color and the license plate. People sometimes ask how to identify suspicious behavior that could be a threat. The most important thing is to trust your instincts when something or someone's behavior strikes you as unusual or suspicious. For example, if someone is asking questions about a security system or security procedures, your antennae should go up. The same is true if you see a stranger taking pictures inside or outside of a Jewish institution. If the person gets defensive or uncooperative when asked what they are doing, notify the staff immediately, so that they may notify law enforcement. Do not explain away unusual behavior. It is law enforcement's job to filter through information and make threat assessments.
- Jewish communal staff should ensure that their institution has established relationships with law enforcement officials and other first responders entrusted with protecting the community. All institutions should invite members of their local police and fire departments to visit their building. Offer them a tour or share an events calendar with them, so they are aware of Jewish holidays or occasions that may attract a large number of people. Relationships are critical. Jewish institutions are always better off when the first call to the local police department is not an emergency 911 call.
- There is a place for security equipment, but vigilance about security awareness can be more valuable than the most expensive equipment. Jewish facilities can have the highest quality security cameras, special locks, buzzers and warning systems at the front entrance, but if someone has propped a back door open because the social hall or the gym is hot, all the high-tech equipment in the world won't do much good.

The bottom line is that we can all be vigilant about security and still enjoy everything our synagogues, federations, community centers and other institutions have to offer. ■

Elise Jarvis is the Anti-Defamation Leagueís communal security coordinator.

Vitals

Mazel tov

Livia Belman-Wells on her bat mitzvah, March 10.
Aiden Kutcher on her bat mitzvah, March 10.
Bess Rothman on her bat mitzvah, March 10.
Eli Levine on his bar mitzvah, March 24.
Katie Orringer on her bat mitzvah, March 31.
Tamas and Eszter Gombosi, on the birth of his granddaughter, Leah Madeline Gombosi, born on January 10, to Alison and Zoltan Gombosi.
Deborah Dash Moore on receiving the Lee Max Friedman Award from the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society.

Condolences

Sarah Lampert on the death of her husband, Seymour Lampert, January 19.
Eileen Nadler on the death of her mother Lilian Henry, January 12.
Martha Oleinick on the death of her brother, Walt Sandoz , January 24.
Naomi and Theodore Harrison on the death of their mother, Theresa Weisberg, January 24.
Besty Mark, Ann Mark and Ira Mark on the death of their mother, Bernice Mark, January 28.

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Amadeus Cafe/Patisserie....2
Ann Arbor Civic Theatre....35
Ann Arbor Film Festival....31
Ann Arbor State Bank....19
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra....24
The Ark....3
Susan Ayer Photography....19
Bank of Ann Arbor....17
Camp Gan Israel....36
Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery....32
Chelsea Flower Shop....32
Dennis Platte Graphic Design....32
Encore Online Resale....32
Fawzi's Westgate Auto Repair....9
Frankel Center....24
Gold Bond Cleaners....24
Cantor Samuel Greenbaum; mohel....17
Hiller's Market....10
Holocaust Memorial Center....3
Jewish Communal Leadership Program....23
Jewish Community Center....19
Jewish Cultural Society....14
Jewish Family Services....6, 21
Jewish Federation....23
Joe Cornell Entertainment....17
Ken Lussenden....34
Mast Shoes....18
Mercy's Restaurant....4
Midwest Traveler's Health....24
Modern Mechanical....17
MOSA Audiology....5
Paper Station....2
Penchansky Whisler Architects....2
People's Food Co-op....21
Michal Porath, Realtor....19
Probility Physical Therapies....5
R.D. Kleinschmidt....4
River Raisin Ragtime Band....16
Simply Scrumptious....21
Temple Beth Emeth....14
U-M School of Public Health....24
United Bank & Trust....15
University Musical Society....13
University Productions....3
Village Apothecary....2
Wisk Away Concepts....21
Zingerman's....35

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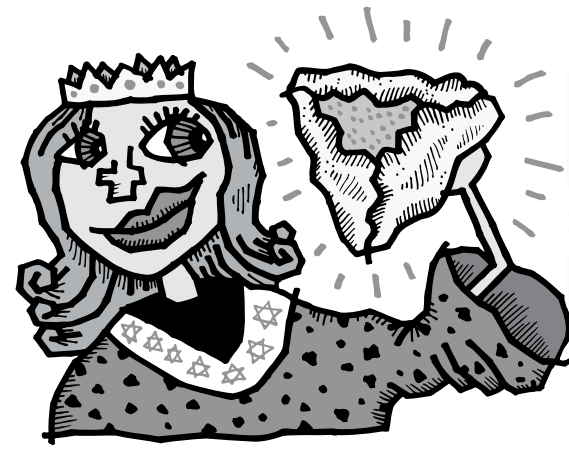

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